MISHICOT'S MEANINGFUL MEMORIES

CHIEF MISHICOT

by Rachel Renee Seidl

The Indian tribes in the Mishicot area were the Menominee, Chippewa, Ottawa and Potawatomi. These tribes migrated here from Northern Wisconsin and Michigan.

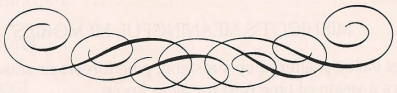
Chief Mishicot came to this area and belonged to the Ottawa Tribe. He was a temporary inhabitant and was well-known. He was given the nickname "Hairy Legs".

The word Mishicot means "Place of Shelter". This is very fitting for this area because the village lies in a valley between two hills.

MISHICOT'S MEANINGFUL MEMORIES

Written, compiled and illustrated by the students,
adult staff and principal Mrs. Hazel P. Eisenmann
of the O. H. Schultz Elementary School
of the School District of Mishicot, Wisconsin
during the school year

1984-1985



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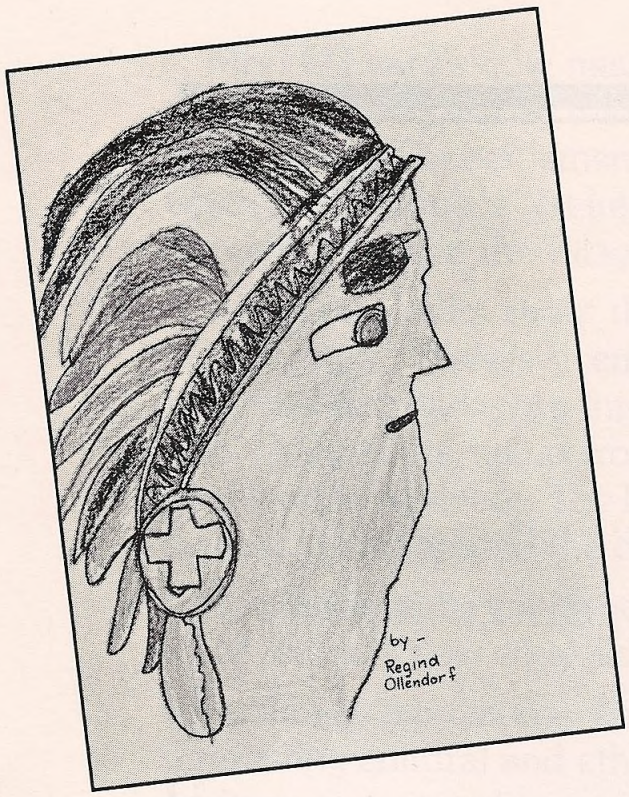
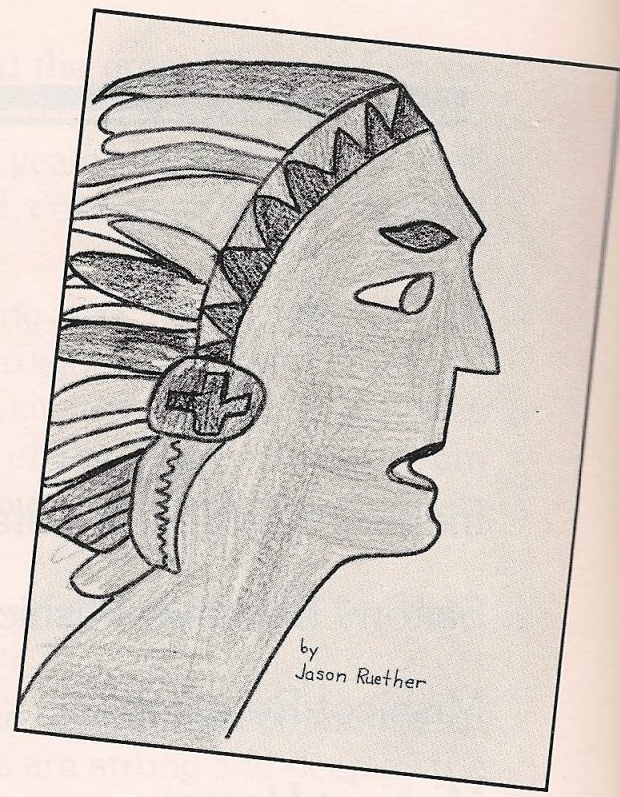
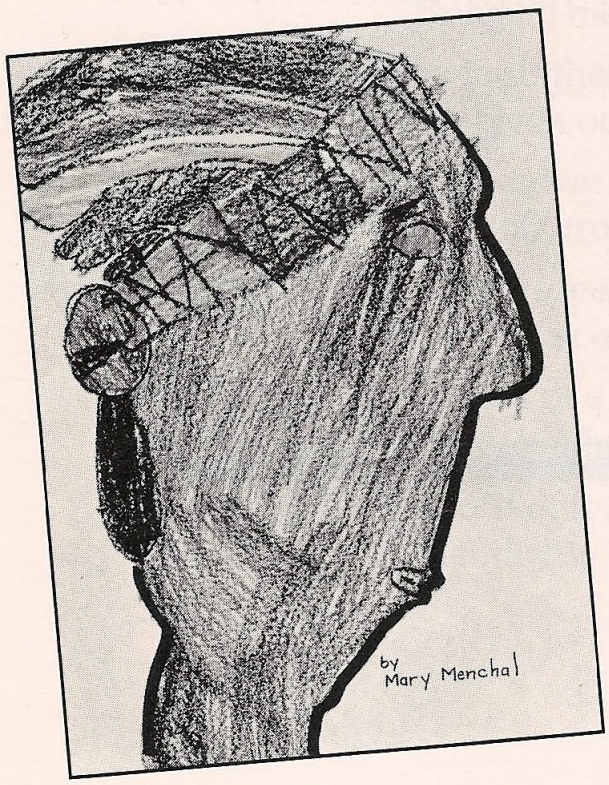
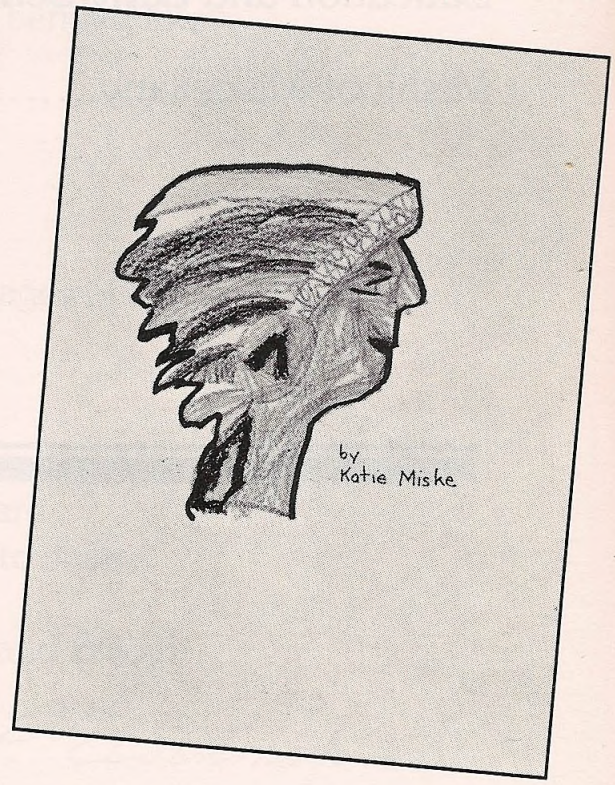
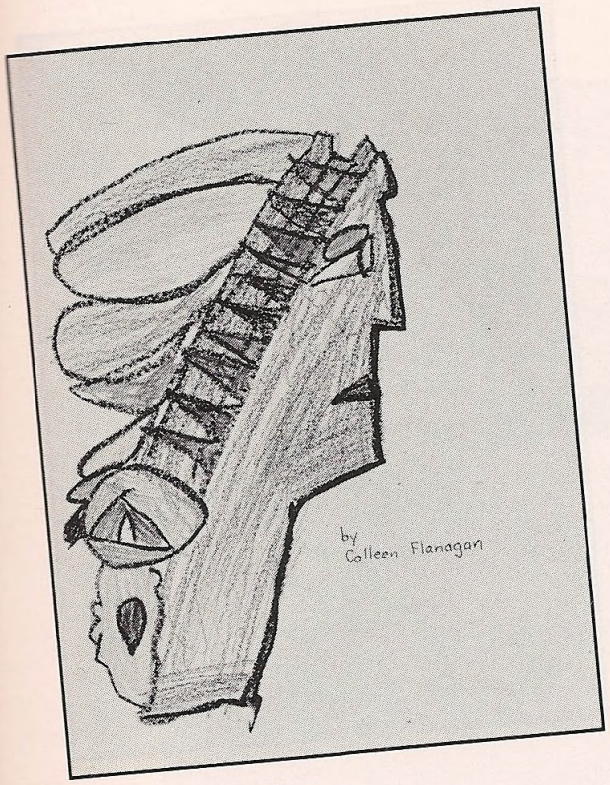


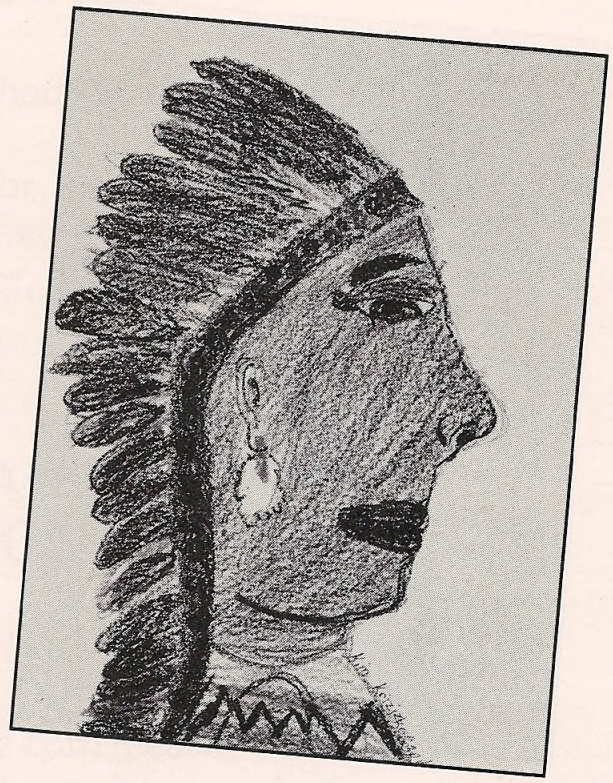


CHIPPEWA INDIANS

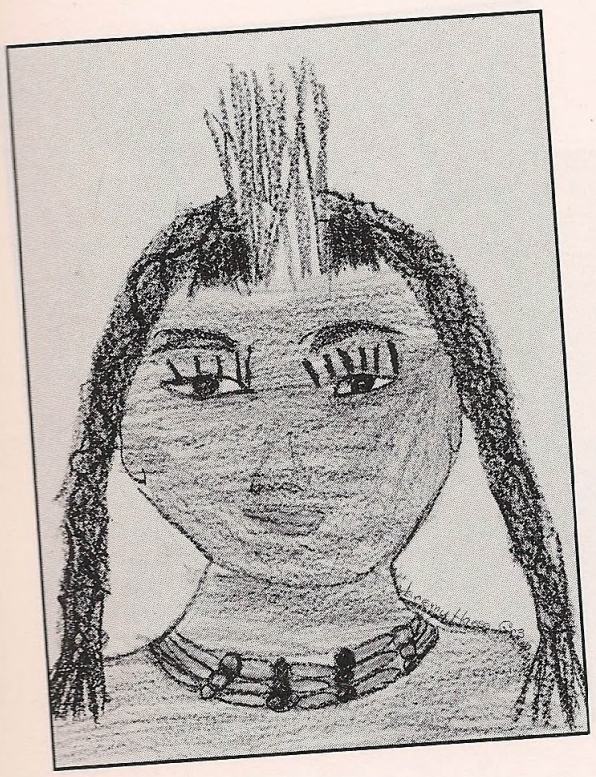


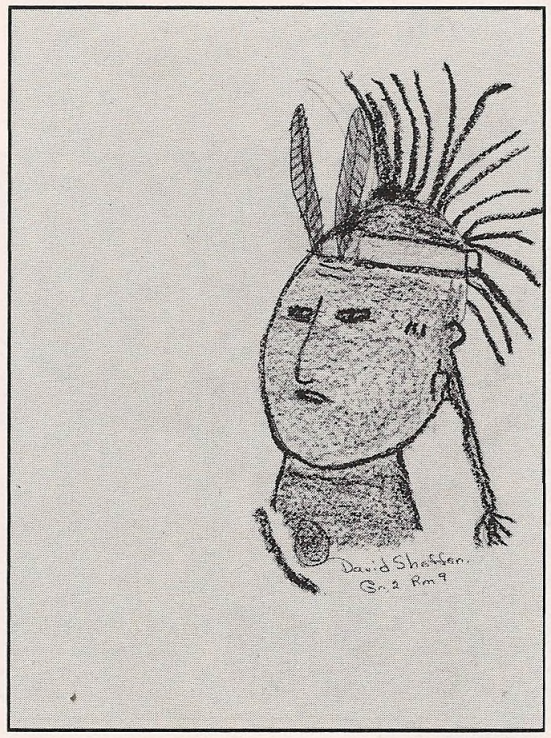


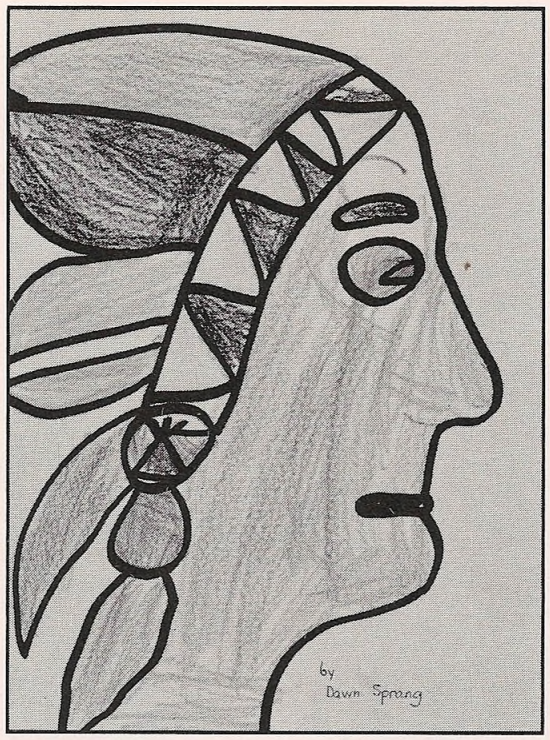


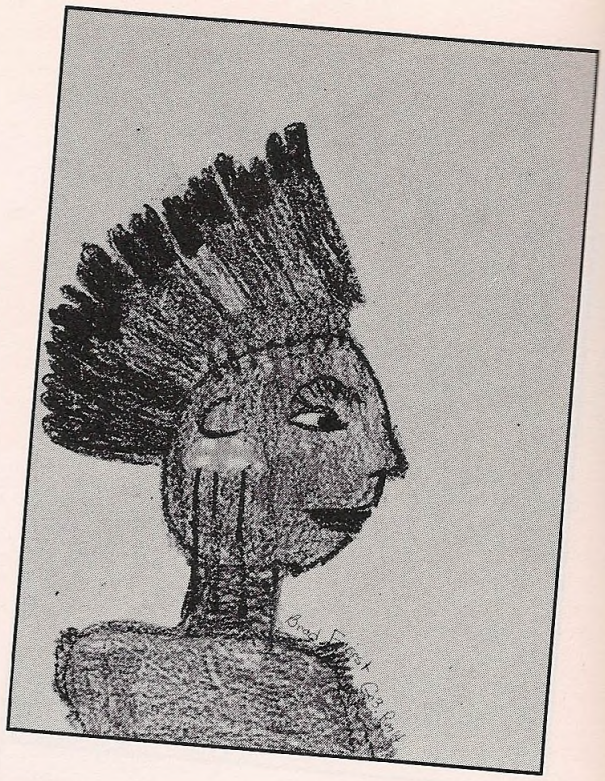


MENOMINEE INDIANS

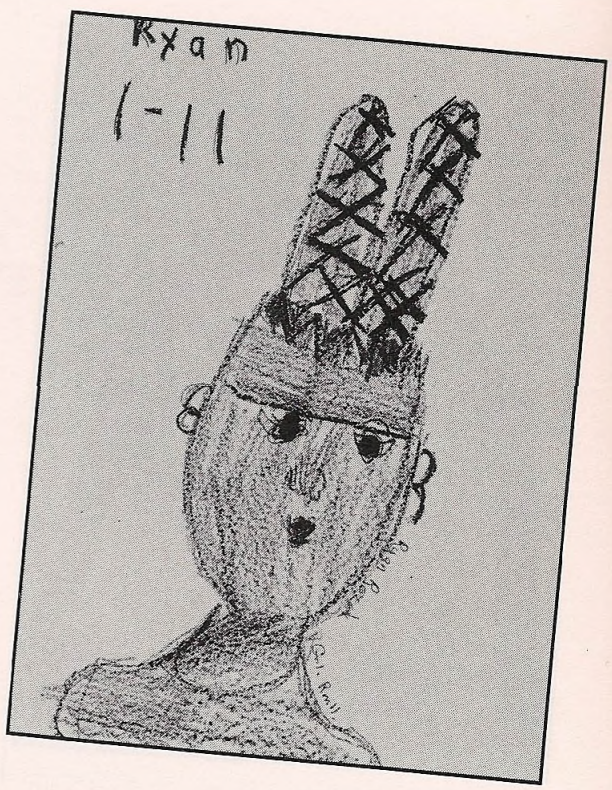


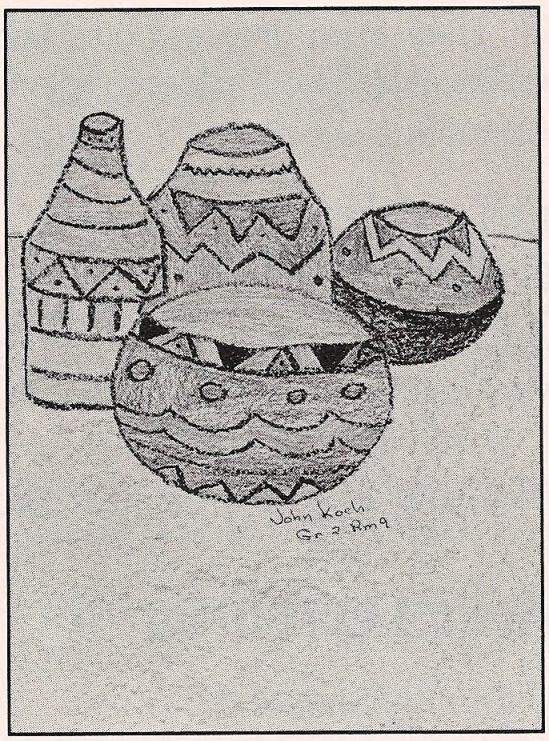






POTAWATOMI INDIANS





Indian Food Containers

INDIAN FOOD

by Chad Parworth

Indians hunted for their meat. They used a bow and arrow. They planted corn and other vegetables. In winter, the dried foods were kept in baskets.

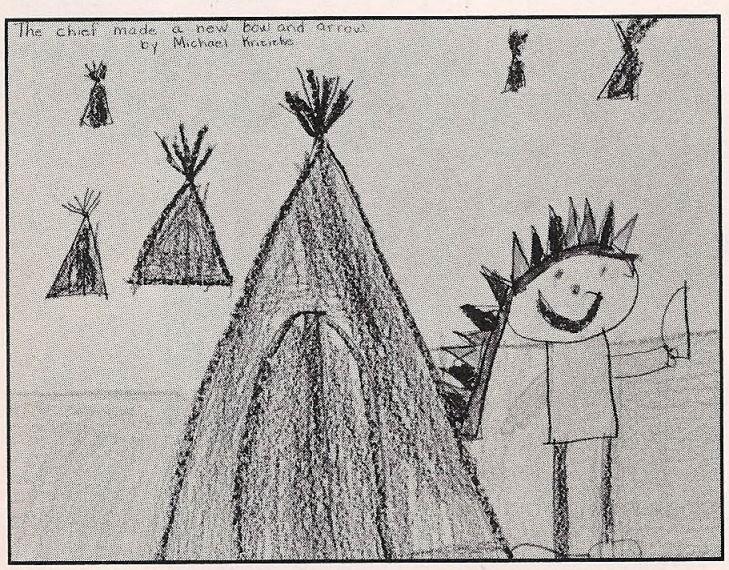
INDIAN FOODS AND CONTAINERS

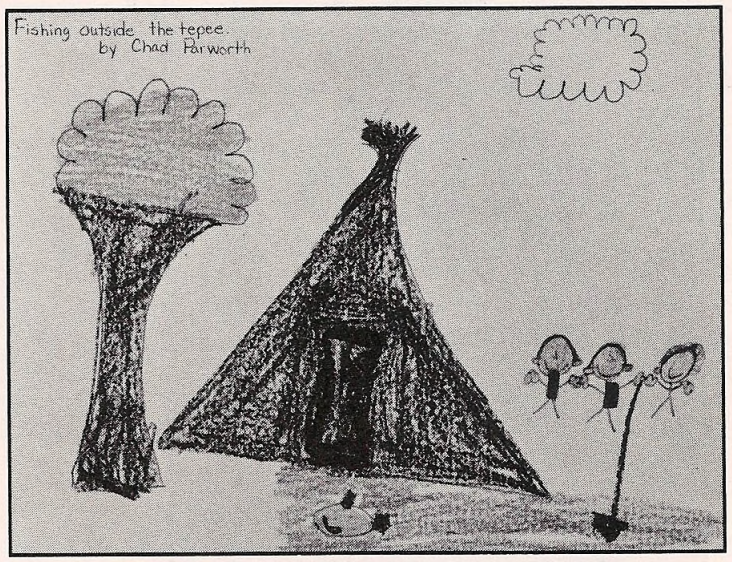
by Brad Fierst

The Indians made corn meal by pounding the corn between two stones. They made corn meal cakes out of it.

The Indian women paddled out in the water to tie bundles of rice together. They bent the bundles over the boat and beat it.

The Indians also tapped maple trees for the sap which they made into syrup by cooking it. They made candy and sugar loaves. The sugar loaves were put in birchbark boxes.





INDIAN TOOLS AND WEAPONS

by Mike Wegner

The Mishicot Indians used weapons for getting their food. They used knives, bows and arrows, spears, and traps. They hunted deer, birds and other animals. The Mishicot Indians went fishing in Lake Michigan and in the nearby rivers and streams.

MORE ABOUT INDIAN TOOLS AND WEAPONS

by Jennifer Krcma and Michael Wieting

The Indians had to make weapons out of stone, wood, bone, animal horns and metal. The most important weapon was the bow and arrow. Others that were used were spears, harpoons, clubs, boomerangs and nets.

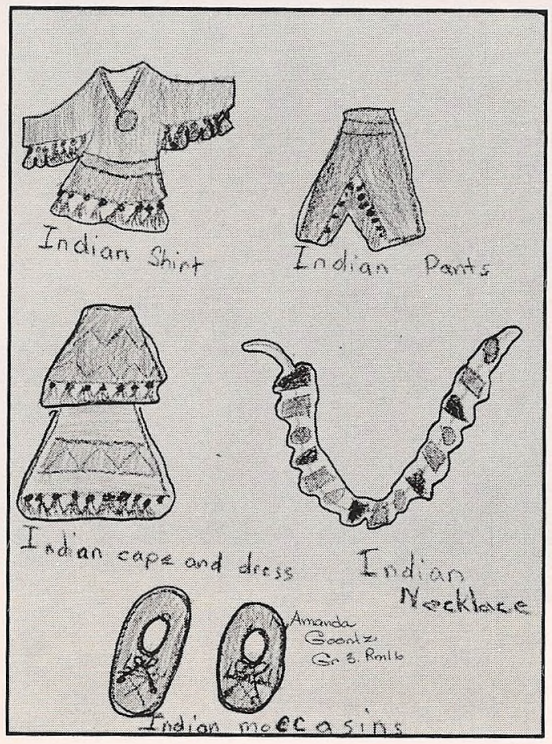
The digging stick was used to dig different kinds of roots. Fish and small animals provided most of the food for the Indians.

INDIAN CLOTHING

by Tammy Sheffer

Mishicot Indians had to kill a deer for their clothing. They stretched the skin out to dry. They rubbed it with hardwood to get it velvety. The hair was taken off.

Skins were made into shirts, vests, leggings, dresses and moccasins. For decorations, Indians used beads, shells and porcupine quills. Berries and different kinds of leaves were used to make bright colors. Wild flowers were sometimes used also.



MISHICOT INDIAN HOMES

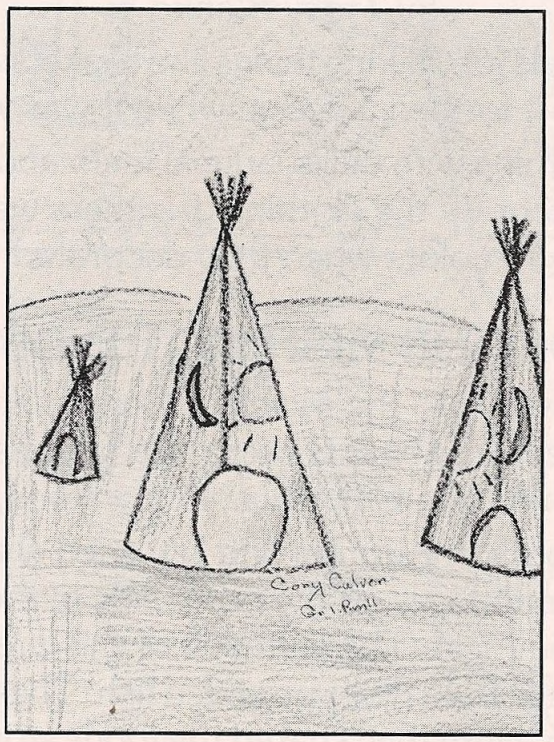
by Stacy Eis, Trisha Olesewski, Jaime Puta

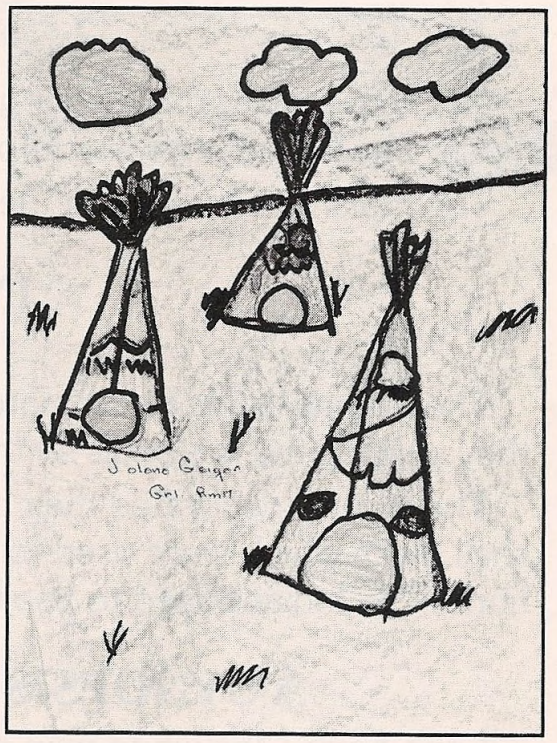
Indians that lived around Mishicot probably had two homes. They lived in a home called a tepee in the summer and a warmer home called a wigwam in the winter.

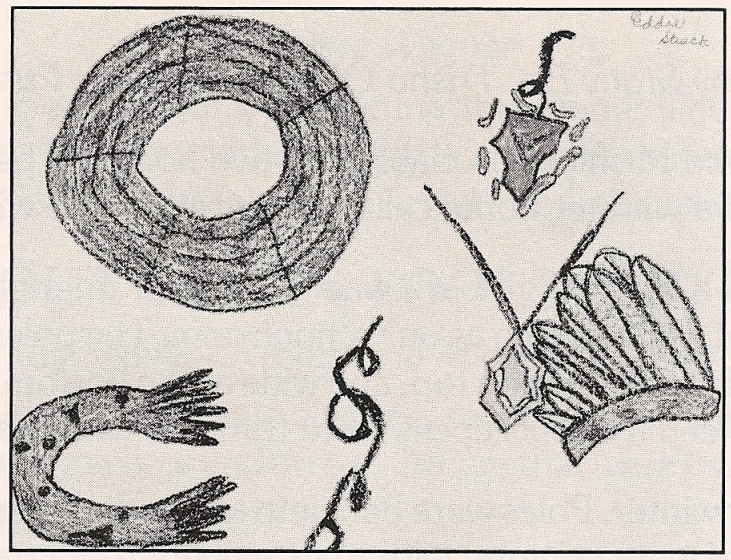
Twenty long poles and a lot of birch bark was needed for one tepee. When the poles were stood up, they were about twice as high as our schoolroom. The poles were put up to be shaped like a cone, narrow and tied together on top, and wide at the bottom. The tepee had two doors and a hole in the top to keep it cool. Tepees were trimmed with drawings and paintings.

A wigwam was built for winter. Poles were bent into a rounded shape with a roof shaped like a dome. The sides and roof were covered with mats woven from coarse grass. This home had only one door and a smoke hole and was built well to keep warm.

Each tribe had one house that was built finer than the rest. This house was for the Indian Chief.







MISHICOT INDIANS TRADED

by David Morgan

Mishicot Indians didn't have money so they traded things. They traded earrings, fish oil and wampum. They were poor. They traded things that they could use like weapons or clothes.

MISHICOT INDIAN GAMES

by Abe Jennings

Mishicot Indians played ball games. Indians made the ball out of deer skin and stuffed it with dried grass. The Indian boys like to play ball.

The Indians called one of their games "chunkey racket". It was played with a stick and a rock.

INDIAN ARTS AND CRAFTS

by Tracy Blanke

The Indians used natural materials for making things like baskets and food containers. Sometimes they painted the materials so that it formed a design when it was woven into a basket.

The Indians decorated their clothing with quills, animal teeth and shells. Some of the men carved shell disks which were used to decorate the clothing. Feathers were painted and used as decorations. The Indians liked to use bright colors when they decorated their things.

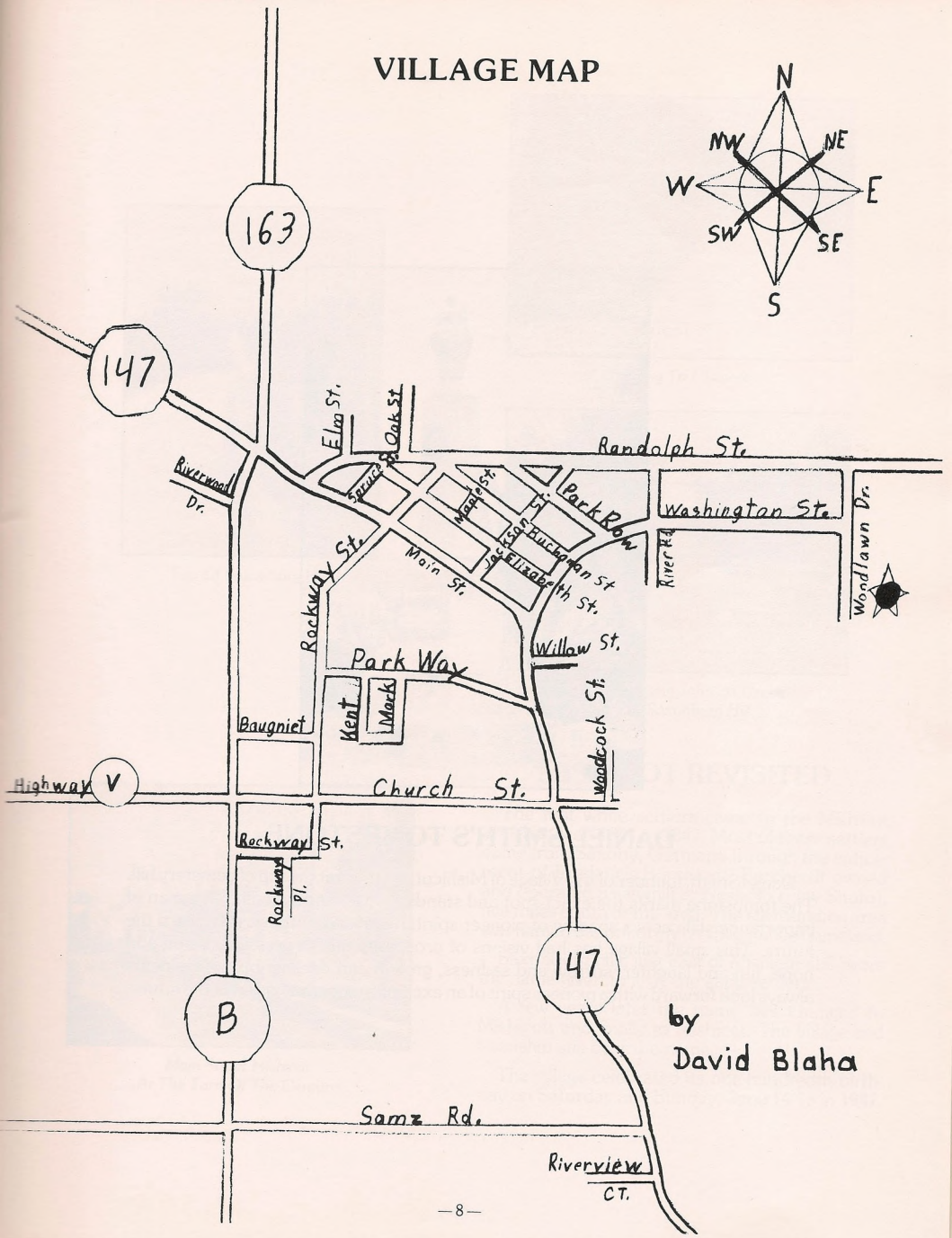
A SYNOPSIS OF THE MISHICOT INDIAN CULTURE

Long before the white man moved into the Mishicot Community, the lands were covered with beautiful pine forests. The earliest inhabitants were the Indians that migrated from Northern Wisconsin and Michigan, belonging to the Chippewa, Potawatomi, Ottawa and Menominee tribes.

These Indians moved to the South in Autumn and returned again to the lush forests in spring. Each autumn the groups had a rendezvous on the north side of the East Twin River, presently the Mishicot School District's Athletic Field. The light soil of this area served as a summer planting ground and the nearness to the East Twin River provided fish. The abundance of wild life in the pine forest furnished meat and clothing. Here they shared the foods stored and preserved for the winter with the members of their own families. Foods and all equipment were bundled in deerskins, and loaded on their ponies or travoises as they left for their winter quarters.

The more permanent houses, the wigwams, remained for occupation during the cold weather. The tepee type home was usually carried along on the big move.

VILLAGE MAP



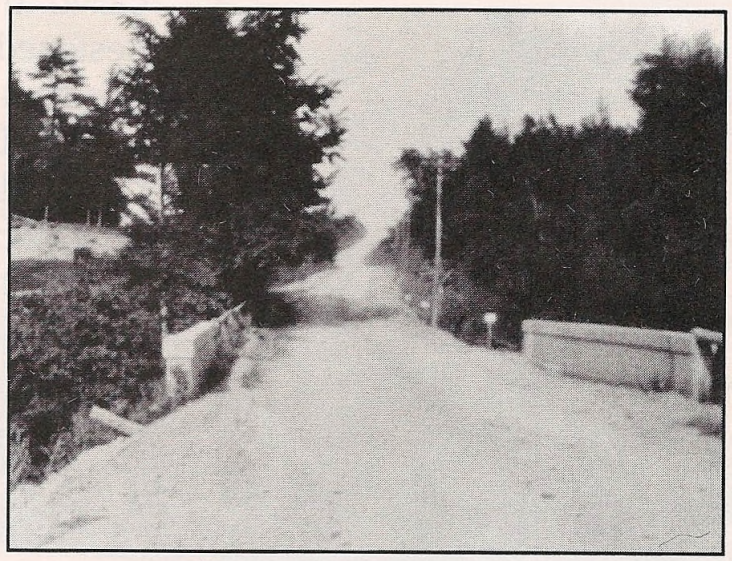
by
David Blaha

DANIEL SMITH'S TOMBSTONE

Daniel Smith, founder of the Village of Mishicot, is buried at the top of cemetery hill. The tombstone marks the exact spot and stands as a reminder of all that a man of importance still casts a shadow of pioneer spirit, hope, and enthusiasm toward the future. This small village has had visions of prosperity and depression, vision and hope, fun and laughter, sorrow and sadness, growth and decline; but its residents always look forward with a pioneer spirit of an exciting, exuberant vision of the future.

Coming To Mishicot

Top Of Saxonburg Hill



Bridge Crossing Johnson Creek
Below Saxonburg Hill

Main Street Mishicot
At The Turn Of The Century

MISHICOT REVISITED

The first white settlers came to the Mishicot area between 1841 to 1847. Most of these settlers came from Saxony, Germany through the enticement of Frederick Borcherdt. Borcherdt owned and operated a sawmill at Neshoto (now Shoto), five miles south of the area. The surrounding area was named Saxonburg after their native homeland.

Saxonburg Hill, just east of Mishicot still bears the name given to it by the early settlers.

A few years later the name was changed to Mishicott and finally to Mishicot. The village and township still bear the name.

The village celebrated its one-hundredth birthday on Saturday and Sunday, June 14-15 in 1947.

INTRODUCTION TO MISHICOT HOMES

The homes in and around the Community of Mishicot were built of wood because of the abundance of virgin pine forests in the area. The earliest log cabins were replaced by the single and two story frame structures. Some of the homes had a towerlike structure built on the second story giving it the Victorian appearance, popular at the turn of the century.

MISHICOT HOMES

by Karri Kieffer

Mishicot homes were simple log and clapboard constructions prior to the 1890's. Most of these houses disappeared from the Mishicot scene due to fire, family growth, or deterioration.

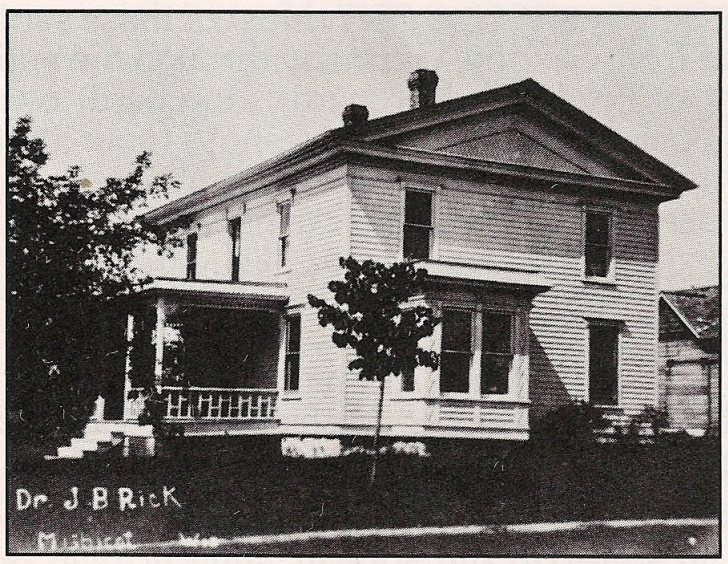
Dr. Karnopp's Home and Hospital

The turn of the century brought about a style of house called the Victorian. These large stately and ornately designed houses were popular throughout the nation and Mishicot was not excluded. One of the earliest of these was built by Dr. Rick, who was an area doctor. The house was his residence, a doctor's office, and an over-the-counter pharmacy. Located on the corner of Elizabeth and Jackson Street, it is currently the residence of George Schmidt Jr.

Another of these houses is on the corner of Elizabeth and North Rockway Street, and is presently the Lloyd Brouchoud family residence. When built, this house was the office of Dr. Karnopp. Dr. Karnopp equipped the house with an operating room where he performed surgery.

One of the first surgeries performed was that involving the amputation of August Plautz's hand. August remained at Dr. Karnopp's home for a time where he was given hospital care.

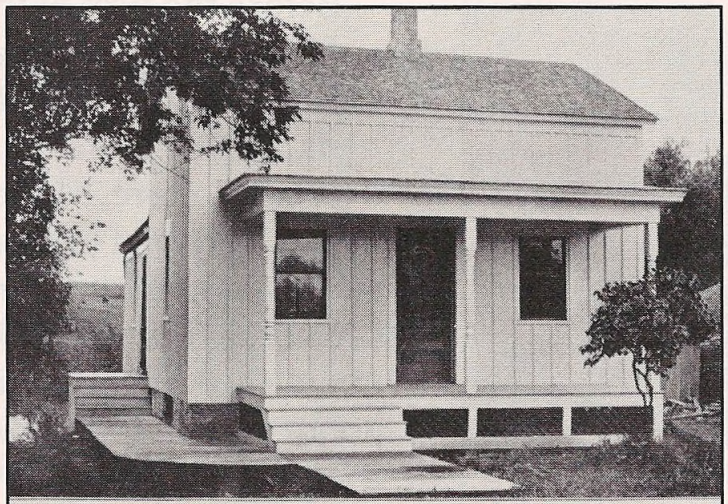
Dr. C.J. Skwor later purchased the house and used it as his residence and office.



Dr. Rick's Home and Office

Today, Mishicot is a combination of old and new houses. The greatest number of new houses being constructed between 1965 and 1981.

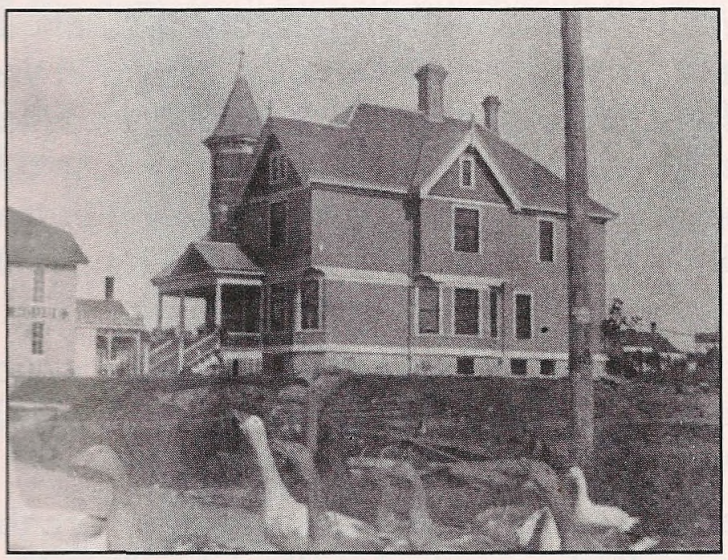
From small cottages or single story frame buildings, to stately Victorian Style homes.



SUMMER COTTAGE ON "MISHICOT."

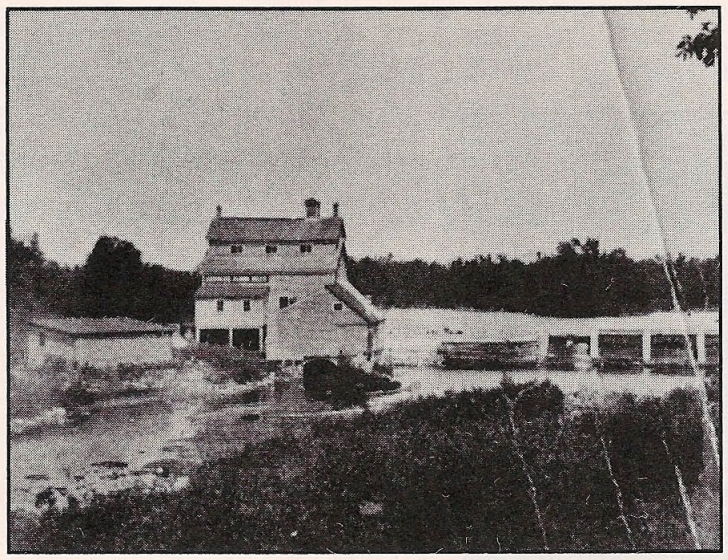
ELISABETH AVENUE LOOKING SOUTH.

JACKSON STREET LOOKING EAST.

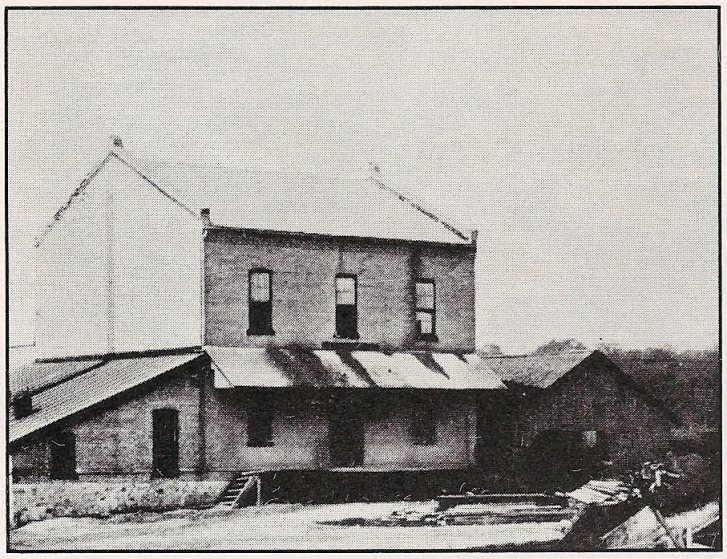


A. Holst Home

Dr. Karnopp's Home and Office



Siebold's Mill
West of Mishicot Village



Grist and Sawmill
In the Village

MISHICOT BUSINESSES

Before the turn of the century, Mishicot was a booming town boasting more successful businesses than the city of Manitowoc. It had a bank, four or more hotels, three general stores, a furniture store, a hardware store, shoe stores, blacksmith and wagonmaker shops, butcher shops, saw and planning mills, grist mills, a brewery, cheese factories, and cigar factories and stores. The population was estimated at about four hundred which grew to 1,534 by 1910.

MISHICOT SAWMILL

by Christine Bonfigt

The sawmill was operated by cutting one log at a time. The logs were spiked down on a wooden carrier that moved back and forth beside the saw. The saw was mounted up and down on a wooden crossbeam that moved up and down between two side blocks which kept the crossbeam in place. The bottom end of the saw was attached to a pole under the mill's floor. This pole held the saw firmly in place and kept it straight and steady. The wooden beam to which the saw was attached, was connected by cogwheels to the shaft of the water wheel outside the mill. The mill-wheel turned the cog-wheels and the saw was raised and lowered.

The carrier, which held the log to be sawed, was moved toward the saw by means of cogs under the frame. As the log was carried against the saw, the saw moved up and down, cutting its way through the full length of the log. A big piece of the wood was taken off. The carrier was taken back, the log was turned, and the saw cut off another piece of wood. After four pieces had been taken off, the square log was cut into boards. Iron screws on the carrier were adjusted to hold the log in the proper place as it decreased in size. Other screws were adjusted to determine the width of the board that was to be cut. A sawmill of this type could saw between 500 and 1,000 feet of lumber a day.

After the lumber was sawed, it had to be cured, or seasoned. Seasoned means another way of saying drying lumber. To season properly the lumber was piled in such a way as to let the air circulate between the boards so that the lumber would dry evenly and would not warp.

In 1855, Alfred Smith and Ira Clark were in charge of the sawmill. It was located where the Co-op is now. Another mill was Rhode's Mill. Grover Kadow worked at Rhode's mill making shingles as a very young boy. He earned seventy-five cents a day if he met the required quota. They made all kinds of boards and shingles.

MISHICOT'S GRISTMILLS

by Joy Levanetz and David Remiker

The gristmill was one of the earliest businesses in Mishicot. This gristmill was located on the East Twin River. This building was established in 1855 by Alfred Smith and Ira Clark, two of the town's earliest pioneers. The mill had many advantages, being on such a navigable river and the hillsides rose with countless numbers of tall pine. Other people who immigrated here liked the mill. Among the early settlers we find the names of J. Trossen, N. Trossen, J. Scheuer, J. Schmidt, J. Runge, J. Lindstedt, F. Halberg, J. Mueller, F. Braash, B. Soenksen, A.E. Selk, J. Altmier, Peter Rau, H. Beyer, A. Cayo, L. Damon, L. Koehnke and H. Mueller.

Mishicot, being centrally located in this district soon became a thriving village. This mill was located near the dam of the river. The dam was located about one mile west of Mishicot near Highway 147. This mill was called the Siebold Mill because Paul Siebold owned it in the 1920's. Paul Siebold had been known to grind wheat in the old mill. In 1924 Paul was robbed. The robber took five barrels of flour and $5.00 from the cash register.

The grist mill like the other mills in the early days, was run by water power. Millstones varied in size from a foot to two feet in thickness and from three to seven feet in diameter.

Grist was fed to the revolving millstones by means of a hopper above them. The grain was emptied into the hopper. It then flowed between the stones, following the grooves which worked the grain from the center toward the outer edge of the stones. The nearer the grain came to the outer edge, the finer the texture of the grist. The grist, when ground, found its way into the spout which carried it below the millstones into bags waiting to be filled. The courseness or fineness of the grist was determined by the miller, who regulated the grind by means of a lever which raised or lowered the runner.

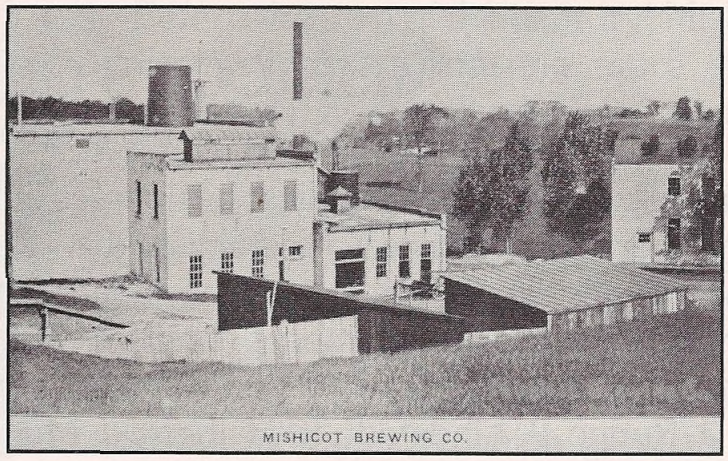
After wheat was ground, it was always sifted two or three times through bolting cloth to secure a flour of fine texture. Bolting cloth was closely woven of the best grade of silk.

As you go across the bridge, west on Highway 147, you can see the remains of the foundation of the dam. Paul Siebold purchased the mill from Alfred Smith and Ira Clark.

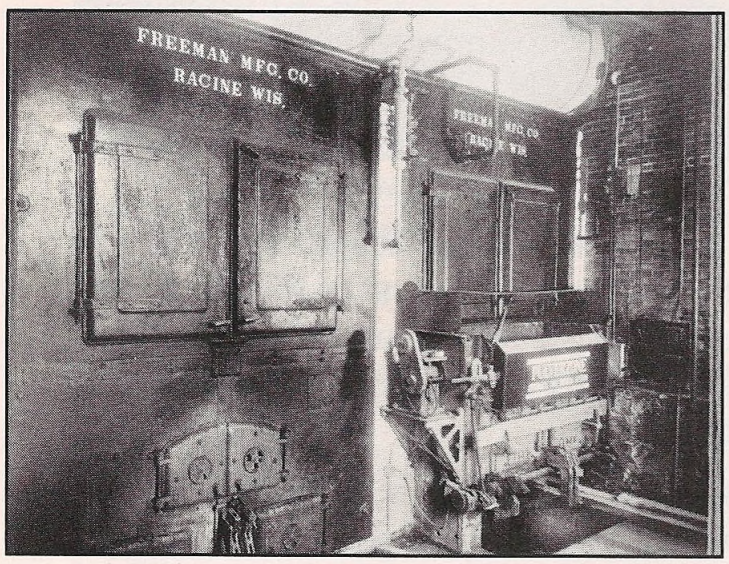
It had been reported that one spring there was a flood. It was later learned that one of the Siebold brothers had opened the gate of the dam causing the flood. George Siebold fell in and drowned.

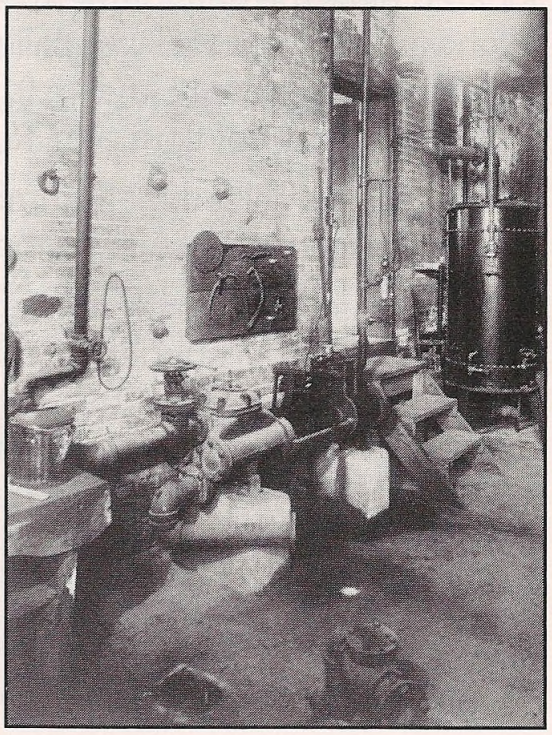
Paul Siebold demolished the mill and took over the mill in the village, about a mile upstream.

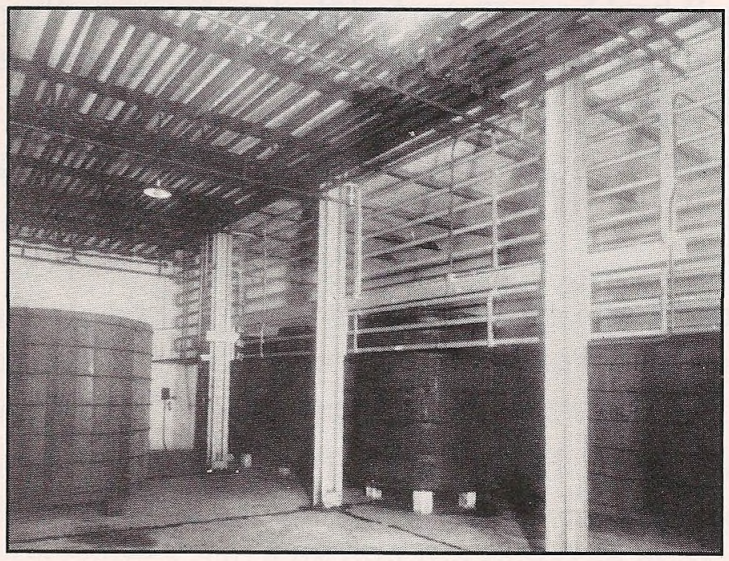
MISHICOT BREWERY
ENGINE ROOM, VATS AND COOLING EQUIPMENT

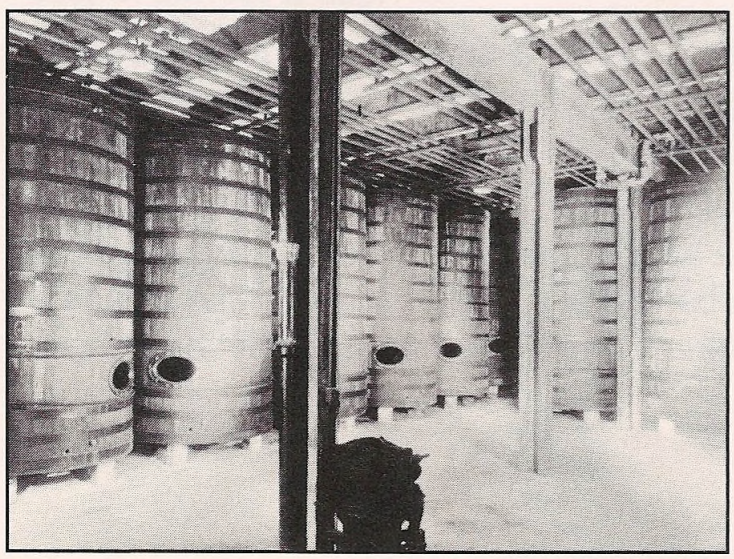


MISHICOT BREWING CO.









THE MISHICOT BREWERY

by Heidi Musial

The Mishicot Brewing Company was built in 1866 by J. Linsteadt. Things contained in the brewing building were a bottling plant, two ice houses, and a horse barn which housed several teams of horses which were used to deliver beer.

Mr. Linsteadt ran the business until 1884, when he sold it to John G. Scheuer. He operated it until 1904, at which time he sold the business to his son, John P. Scheuer and Andrew Frank, John P. Scheuer's brother-in-law. It was then incorporated as the Mishicot Brewing Company. They had the brewery remodeled, adding new cellars, a new boiler room, a new engine room, new bottling rooms, and up-to-date refrigeration. Andrew Frank later sold his share to John P. Scheuer's son, Irvin P. Scheuer.

By this time about fifteen men were working and 6,000 barrels of beer per year was the output. They must have produced a good product because it was sold as far away as Milwaukee.

Operation of the brewery continued until Prohibition forced the shutdown of the brewing operation. A pop factory opened in the bottling house when the brewery was shut down. This was run by John P. Scheuer's son, Cyril. The pop factory operated until the mid 1930's when the entire business was sold to a Chicago corporation which planned to reopen the brewery. Financial problems forced them to abandon this plan, and the corporation was forced into bankruptcy. The former owners had never been paid for the property and the Mishicot Brewing Company had a new owner, the bank.

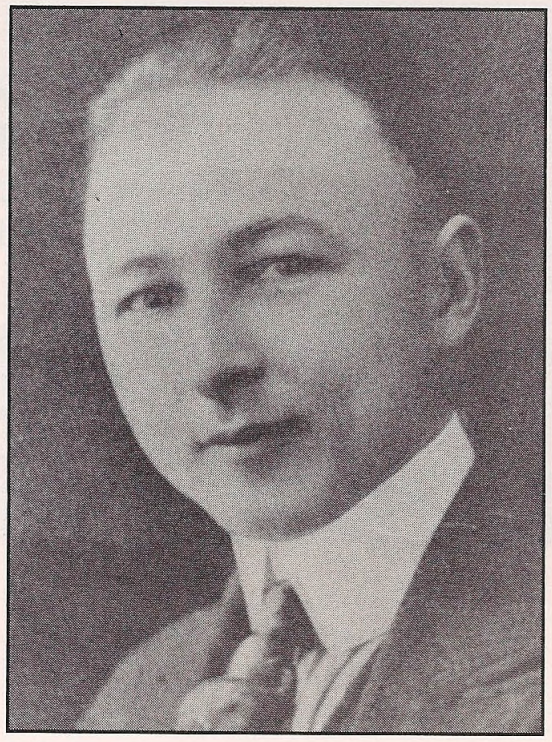
Several years later a Mishicot business man, Jess Lambert, purchased the land from the bank and sold it soon after to the Western Condensing Company. They converted it to a whey plant.

This company produced condensed and powdered whey products. The plant employed more than one hundred people, about twenty-five truckers and more than ten office workers and technicians.

The plant was sold to Salvage Battery and Lead Company on South Rockway, across the street from the tennis courts. It is owned by Anton Pietroske.

A. HOLST

Proprietor and Owner of
Holst Department Store



Arthur Holst

Hugo Holst

A. HOLST'S GENERAL STORE.

DRY GOODS DEPARTMENT WITH GROCERIES IN REAR.

MEN'S AND BOYS' CLOTHING DEPARTMENT.

LADIES' FURNISHING DEPARTMENT.

THE HISTORY OF HOLST'S DEPARTMENT STORE

by Jim Templin

In 1889, the Holst family traveled to Mishicot from Potter, Wisconsin. They started a business which was the Holst's Department Store. They made the building in three sections with living quarters in the back, so they had a place to live.

Hugo and his brother Arthur took over the business in 1918. The store was located where Krajnik's used car lot is today.

The store sold clothing, both women's and men's, along with groceries and shoes.

George Krause bought the property in 1963. He remodeled it into a supermarket.

In 1970 Krause moved his grocery store across the street and the old Holst Store was torn down.

GENERAL STORES

Pfingsten's Store

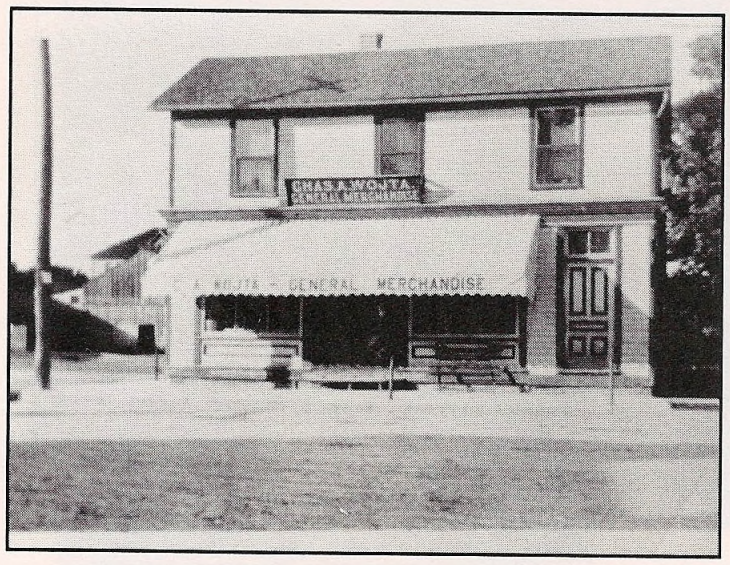
by Chad Peterson

Pfingsten's store was a two story building located on Main Street. On the first floor there was a general store and on the second floor there was a dentist's office. Dr. Clark was the dentist. This building was built in 1907 by E.G. Pfingsten and operated until 1975.

Mr. Pfingsten sold groceries, but he also sold shoes by circulating among people in outlying areas. He usually traveled by horse and buggy and in the winter by sled.

The building no longer stands, but the memory of the store and the family that operated it will live on in the memories of many.

Today as you drive down Main Street the area occupied by the general store is now occupied by our bank parking lot.



Wojta's First Store

C.A. Wojta established a general store in Mishicot in the early 1900's. Groceries, shoes, clothing and small hardware items were among the products sold. Later the Wojta's replaced the wood frame building with a modern red-brick two story building which is still standing today.

Through the years the building housed a grocery store operated by Fred Blattler and a John Deere Implement Store. The John Deere Implement Store was operated by the Joe Lambert Family.

Presently the building has several apartments and houses Richard Thuermer's Law Office.

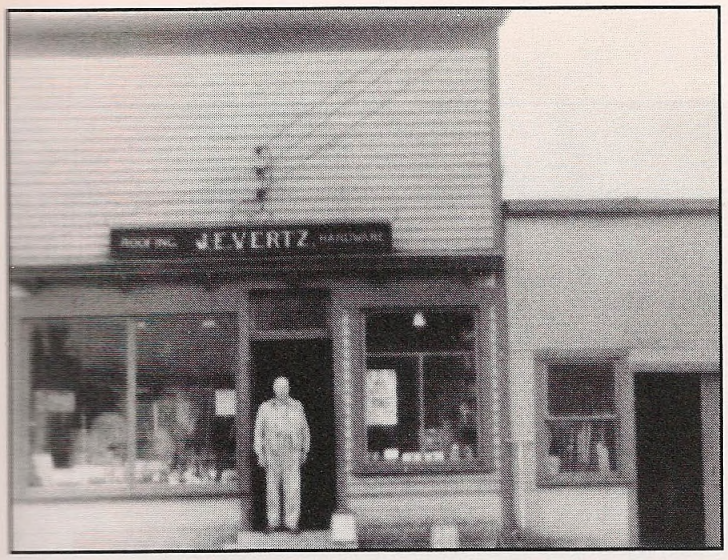
THE DRUG STORE

by Jackie Rezek

The Drug Store had a short life in Mishicot as they say. It was located in the main part of what is now the Cozy Corner Cafe and the Bowling Alleys. It was owned and operated by an out-of-town person.

Shortly after it started, a year to be exact, it went bankrupt and was then sold at an auction. It has been noted that the auctioneer at the time was Joseph Dvorak Sr.

The pestle and mortar seemed to be crushed before they got started.



John Vertz's Hardware
And Sheetmetal Shop

JOHN VERTZ HARDWARE

John Vertz's Hardware Store was a most versatile building which housed the Wilde Photography Shop and Chris Meyer's Cigar Store. Vertz was well known for his work in galvanized metal. The sheet metal shop was part of the business. Grover Kadow got his start in metal work in this shop.

Vertz handled hardware and small items useful to the farmers of the community.

It was purchased by Donald McDonald who continued to operate it as a hardware store until it was torn down.

THE OLD CIGAR SHOP

by Jackie Rezek

The cigar shop was a rather small but unique store. There were three of these shops in the village at one time. One of these shops was owned and operated by Phillip Sinkular. This shop was located upstairs in the house now owned by the Donald Krajnik family.

Chris Meyer, a bachelor, also operated a cigar shop. His shop was located in John Vertz's hardware store. Grover Kadow worked here as a young boy.

The third cigar shop was owned and operated by Mr. Moseler. Mr. Moseler operated his business in what is presently the Remiker residence.

It was noted that local boys often found part-time employment working for these gentlemen. Many of these young boys were between the ages of thirteen and older.

Terens Hardware Store

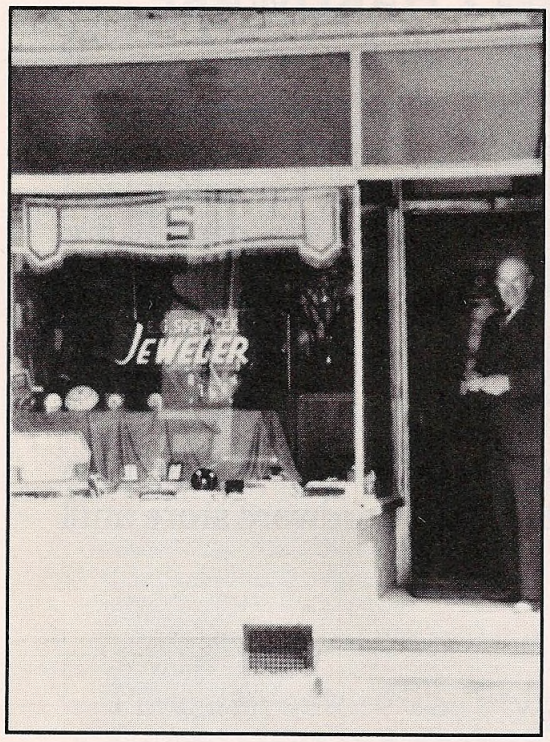
TERENS HARDWARE STORE

John Terens owned and operated a buggy and carriage shop along with a general hardware store. The second floor of the building housed a carriage repair shop and museum. He also had a museum and zoo with rare birds and several animals in the back yard.

The building was later owned and operated by Walter Stelzer and George Schmidt. They also did sheet metal work in their shop. When they dissolved the partnership, it was taken over by Stanley Stelzer, who operated the business until taken over by the present owner, Roy Jindra.

Today the business is known as the Jindra Heating and Plumbing Center.

JEWELRY STORE



Spevacek Jewelry Store

Emil Spevacek ran a jewelry store for many years in the village of Mishicot. It was a thriving business and was housed in the present Jindra Plumbing and Heating Building for most of the years it operated.

Presently, that space which once housed the Jewelry Store, is occupied by Schönes Haus Beauty Salon.

THE SHOEMAKERS AND HARNESSMAKERS

by Kim Fierst and Jennifer Wieting

Shoemakers and harness shops were usually run together in a thriving business. Casper Ploeckelman ran a shoe shop which was later taken over by Fred Cornils in the 1930's. Presently the LaFlash family has remodeled the home and made it their place of residence.

Andrew Hayes ran a shoe shop in the present Melvin Staudinger barber shop building.

Anton Shedivy ran a shoe and harness repair shop on Main Street also.

SCHEUER'S MEAT MARKET

by Emily Lande

Scheuer's Meat Market

A long, long time ago, 1905 to be exact, the Scheuer's Meat Market was built. According to the abstract, the earliest investor was Fred Levenhagen, who turned it over to Nic Scheuer. It is now owned and operated as an antique and art center by Chris Baugniet, who bought it from Robert Scheuer. Robert is the grandson of Nic Scheuer.

Originally there were two stores. The first one was moved to a vacant lot in the early nineteen hundreds. Robert Scheuer's grandfather then bought another parcel of land and built a new market in 1922.

Nic Scheuer bought and sold cattle, hogs and sheep. He would buy beef cattle from the western ranchers and bring them to Mishicot where he would feed and fatten them for butchering. Each fall the cattle would be driven from the Scheuer Farm west of Mishicot, down Main Street to his barn in the village. The cattle drive was excitement for the villagers.

A slaughter house was built in back of the market. Some of the livestock was slaughtered here and sold over the counter in the market. Other livestock were shipped to Francis Creek, then to Milwaukee or Chicago, slaughtered and sold there. Twenty-five to thirty head of cattle could be shipped in one cattle car.

Hogs and sheep were often bought from the local farmers. In those days an entire hog could be bought for three dollars. A whole cow could be bought for fifteen dollars, a big difference from our economy today.

Nic Scheuer turned the business over to his son Earl Scheuer, who later turned it over to Robert Scheuer.

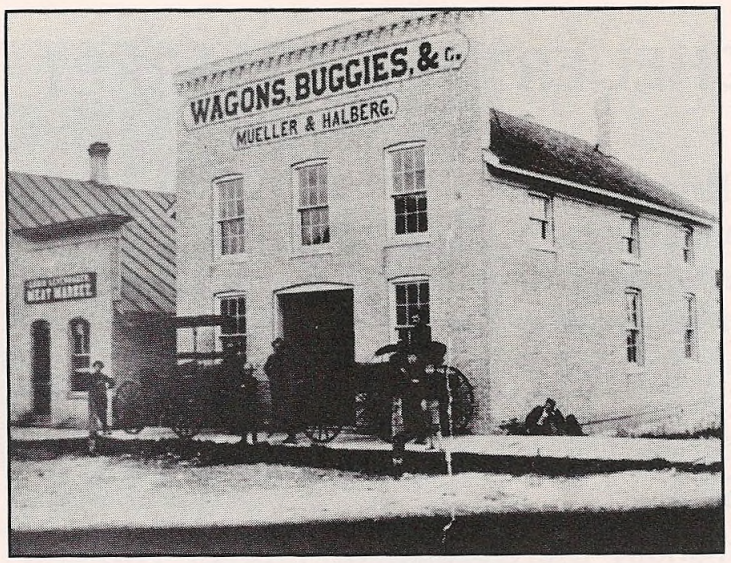
Cutting Ice

SCHEUER'S ICE HOUSE

Before the days of electric refrigeration, ice was used for cooling meat. It was cut and stored in the ice house in back of Scheuer's Meat Market. The ice house had a unique natural ventilating system which kept the meat cool during the warm summer months.

The Scheuers also sold ice to people in the surrounding area.

The ice cutting machine was powered by a gasoline engine. Young men from the surrounding area helped the Scheuers harvest their ice from the East Twin River.



Louie Levenhagen Meat Market (Now Skwors)-To the far left.

Joe Skwor

SKWOR'S MEAT MARKET

by Julie Peters

Skwor's Meat Market is a very old business in the village of Mishicot. This establishment is over one hundred and ten years old. Louis Levenhagen was the first owner and operator of the business.

Louie Levenhagen sold the business to Joseph Skwor in 1894. Joseph was the first of the Skwor family to own and operate the meat market.

After many years Joseph gave the business to his sons Hugo and Charles in 1939. Later Charles sold his half of the business to his brother Hugo. Hugo slaughtered animals in the slaughter house that was located out back of the market. At one time they even cut ice blocks from the river. These ice blocks were sold to help people refrigerate their perishables.

Paul Skwor took over the business in 1961. He tore down the slaughter house in 1965. Then he built a smokehouse. Paul owned the business until 1984.

After his father passed away, David Skwor became the new proprietor of the business located on Main Street in Mishicot.

Kadow's Meat Market

KADOW'S MEAT MARKET

In the forties Lee Kadow opened a meat market in the little building that handled small businesses over the years.

Mr. Kadow had worked at the Scheuer Meat Market before opening his own business.

After Kadow's retirement the building became a barber shop.

THE VILLAGE BLACKSMITH

by Charles Rabitz and Anne Dworak

Joe Dufek's Shop

The village blacksmith was a common sight in the formative years of any village, and Mishicot was no exception. Jim Pivonka was one of the blacksmiths and had his shop on what is now Main Street where the laundromat is today.

As the forge heated the iron the blacksmith smelted it and shaped it into useful tools. Both the forge and chimney were made of brick. Bellows were used to make the fire burn more intensely.

Anvils mounted on stumps were fastened down with iron spikes. Once the shoe was heated, it was lifted from the coals with tongs, placed on the anvil, and hammered and shaped with short strokes. To cool the shoe, it was placed in a barrel of water, and then secured on the waiting horse.

A common sight at the entrance of the blacksmith shop were iron rings. They were used for tying the waiting horses. Another common sight was a stone table with a hole in the middle. This was a base upon which were placed the wagon wheels that needed fixing.

When Joseph J. Dufek came to the area he worked with Jim Pivonka and learned the blacksmith trade. One might have thought him to have been an early apprentice. Later Joe opened his own shop on the opposite end of town, where the Magic Mirror is today.

It was customary to see a blacksmith forging shoes for horses, repairing wagon wheels, and casting things out of iron. One of Joe Dufek's specialties was shoeing western horses. Many have said this was a very high spirited breed of horses. Often times people gathered around the chimney in Joe's shop to watch the swallows and exchange a little small talk.

Shoeing Horses — Dufek's

Everyone knew Joe to be a very good-hearted man. His home was always open, and what he had he often shared with others. It has been said that Joe even had his own little advertising slogan. It went something like this: "Joe Dufek. . .nuf sed."

There should be no doubt how important the blacksmith was to the people of this village.

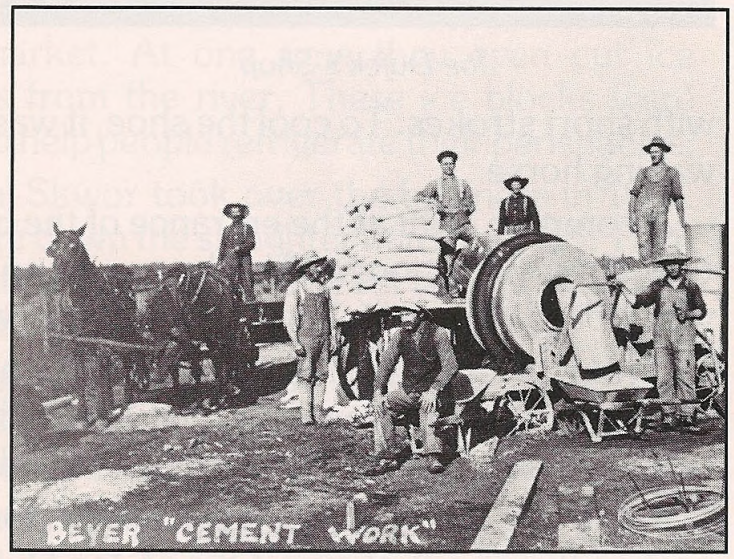
First Mishicot Dam

BUILDING THE DAM

The first dam across the East Twin River in the village of Mishicot was built of logs, stones and ground. Peter Rau was in charge of the building of this dam.

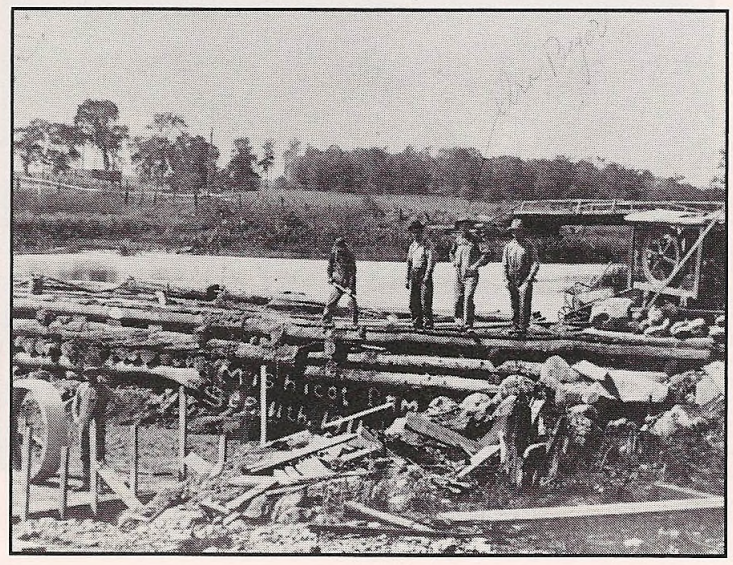
In later years, a more permanent structure was built to replace the original dam. This dam was built of concrete. The Beyer Cement Works provided the concrete for the construction of the new dam. The new dam provided the source of energy for the power plant. The turn of the century brought these changes to the village.

Preparing Footings For The New Dam



Beyer Cement Works

Construction Of The New Mishicot Dam



Construction Of The Dam

MISHICOT'S ELECTRIC LIGHT AND POWER

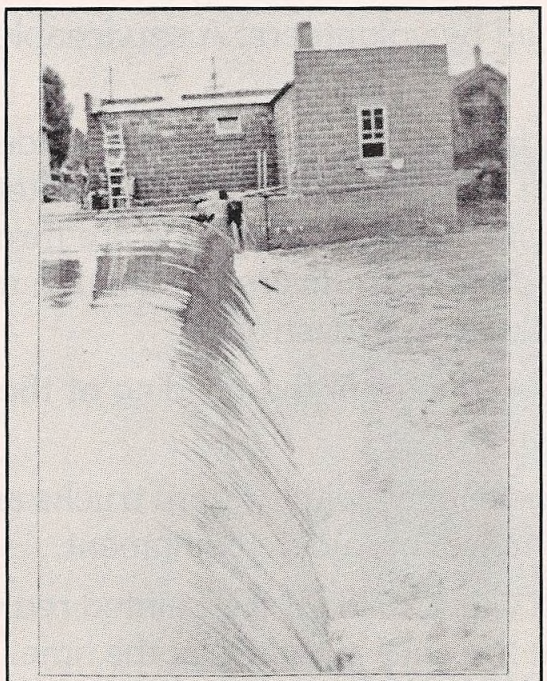
by Randy Peters

Mishicot, although at the time unincorporated, was very proud of its electric light plant. For this particular area an electric plant was an unusual feature, especially for a small inland town. This plant was a privately owned and operated facility. It belonged to Ira Beyer.

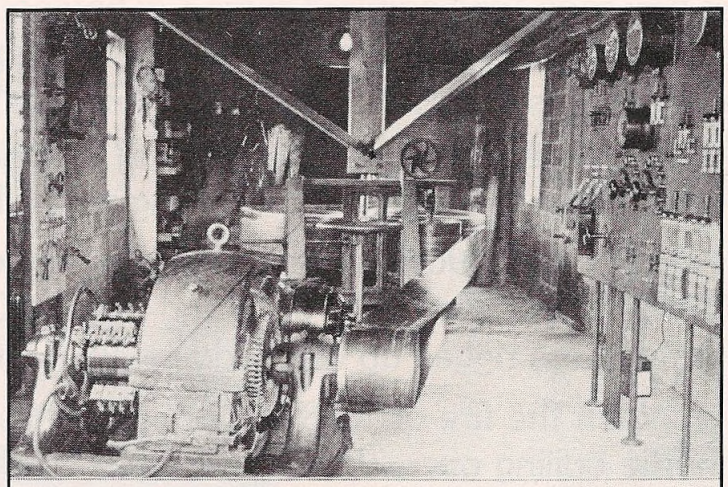
The concrete dam that spanned the East Twin River backed the water up for miles and developed hundreds of horse-power which were used in the operation of the generator.

At that time the generators produced sufficient current to light the village, and the surplus current entered the storage batteries, to be used during the day-time, thus giving the village twenty-four hour service.

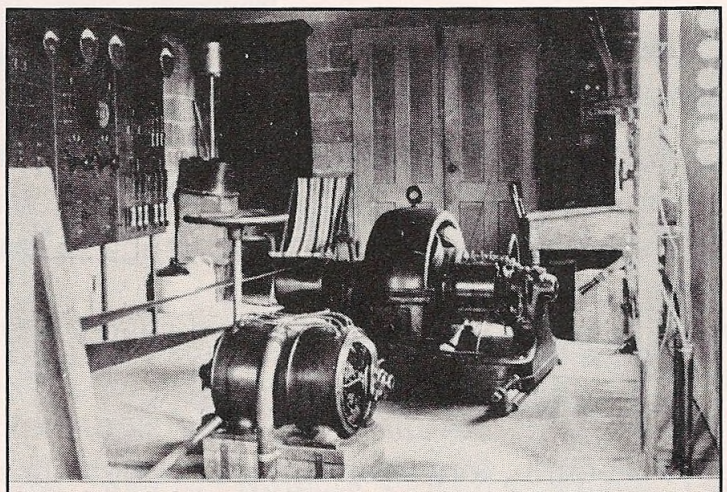
Mishicot has been said to be a leader when it comes to electric power, because the village had this service before some of our neighboring cities.



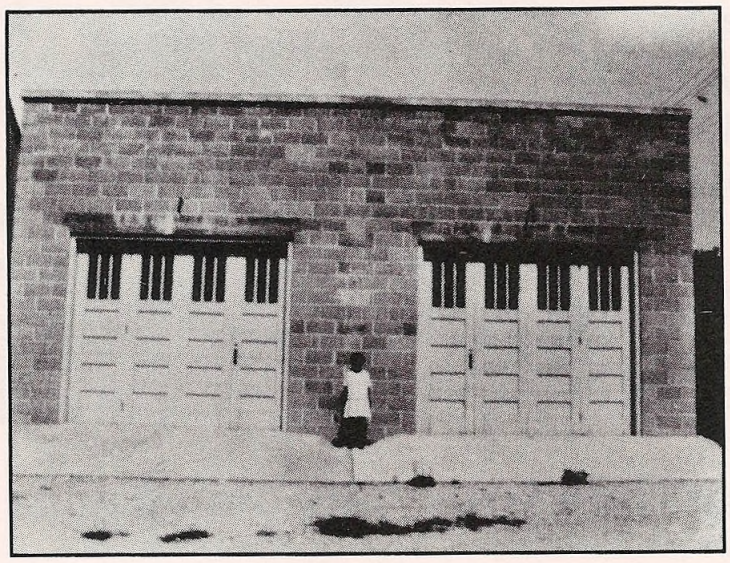
Power House and Dam of Mishicot Electric Light & Power Plant.



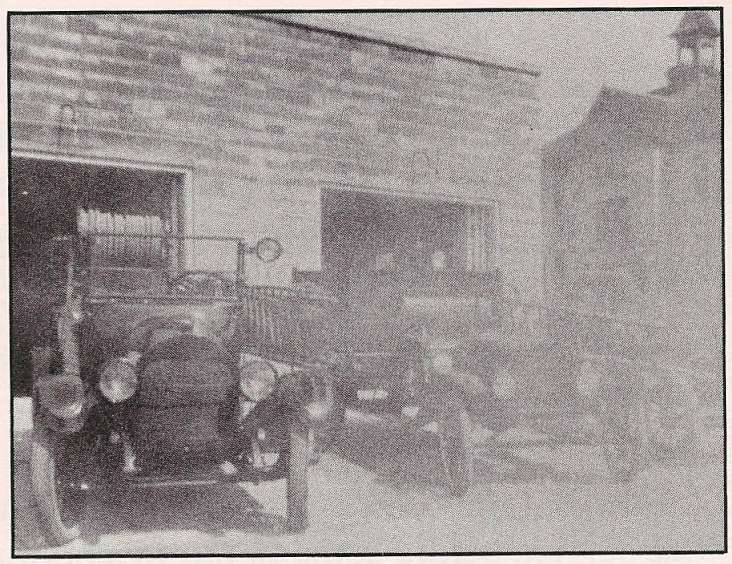
Water Wheel and Switch Board in Power House of Electric Light Company.



Generators in Power House of Electric Light Company.



Mishicot Fire Station
Early 1900's



Early Mishicot Fire Trucks

MISHICOT VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Mishicot Village and surrounding area has always had an active fire department. Volunteers came from the village and outlying area when called by the fire bell.

From 1878-1900 fire fighting equipment was very simple. At the time of the big fire in Mishicot, 1888, it consisted of a Hook-and-Ladder Company manned by volunteers. A serviceable old wagon was rigged up with ladders and leather buckets.

When the fire of 1888 broke out in Mishicot, resulting from an unattended lard rendering kettle boiling over, the Hook-and-Ladder Company came to the rescue, dipping buckets of water from the East Twin River. Drought conditions and strong winds drove the fire through town at a rapid pace. A volunteer riding on horseback rode to Two Rivers to summon more help. By the time help arrived six or seven one story buildings were destroyed.

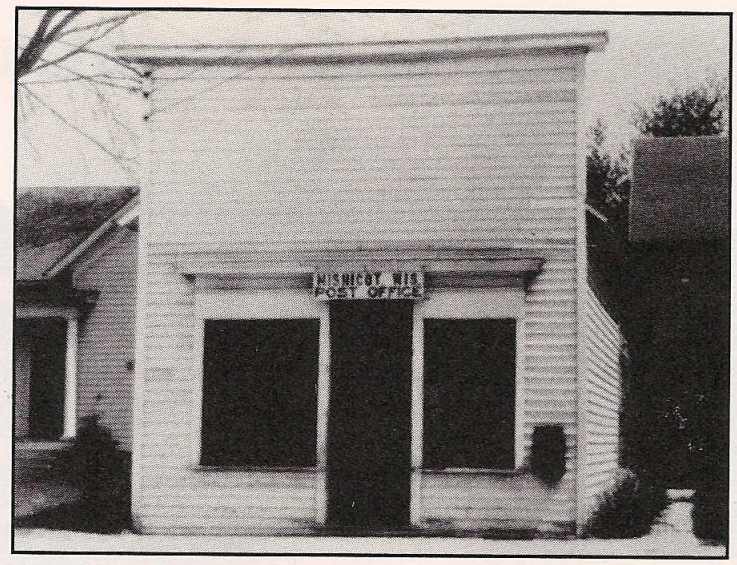
The first fire equipment was stored in Joe Brouchoud's barn until the building of the fire station across from the High School in the middle of the village.

As the automobile became more popular, Mishicot was equipped with two fire trucks and a water wagon. Hoses and long ladders became part of the more up-to-date equipment.

A few years later Mishicot acquired a larger fire truck. It was a 1928 GMC, painted red with elaborate gold trim, and it had a big six-cylinder engine like the ones in Buicks at the time. The fire department has kept this truck in good condition through the years, and it sometimes appears in local parades.

For a time the fire station was housed in the building which is now Attorney Thuermer's office, and an apartment complex.

Presently, a new and more modern fire station on the east end of Main Street houses the equipment. The new station has a meeting room and also houses the Mishicot Emergency Vehicle. Regular meetings and training sessions are held under the sincere, careful leadership of a long time Mishicot Fire Chief, Ray Kronforst.



MISHICOT POST OFFICE

The first post office in Mishicot was located in Pfingsten's General Store until an appropriate building could be found. The Post Office was then located in a small building next door and to the east of Pfingsten's Store on Main Street. It stayed here until the building was vacated and relocated in a portion of the building now occupied by John's Bar. A short time later it became part of the front of the Red Owl Store Building owned by Fred Blattler. Later a building was built by Leo Kostechka on its present site.

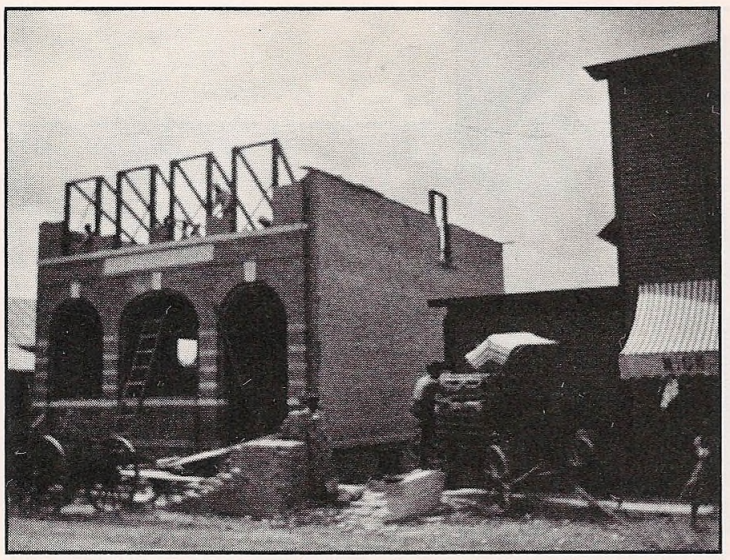
MISHICOT FUNERAL HOME

Mishicot had its own funeral home and embalming services by the turn of the century. It was located in the building presently owned and occupied by the Kit Kat Tailor Shop. The first mortician was William Mueller. Mr. Mueller added a complete line of furniture.

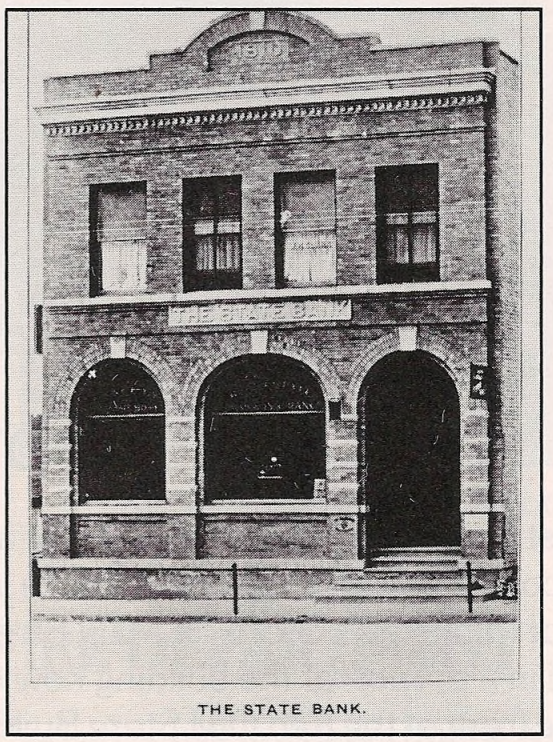
Later the store and business was sold to August Specht, Mueller's brother-in-law. He continued in the business until it was sold to his son, Paul Specht.

Paul Specht continued in the business and sold it to Erwin Lambert. Lambert built a new funeral home on the south side of the village, its present site.

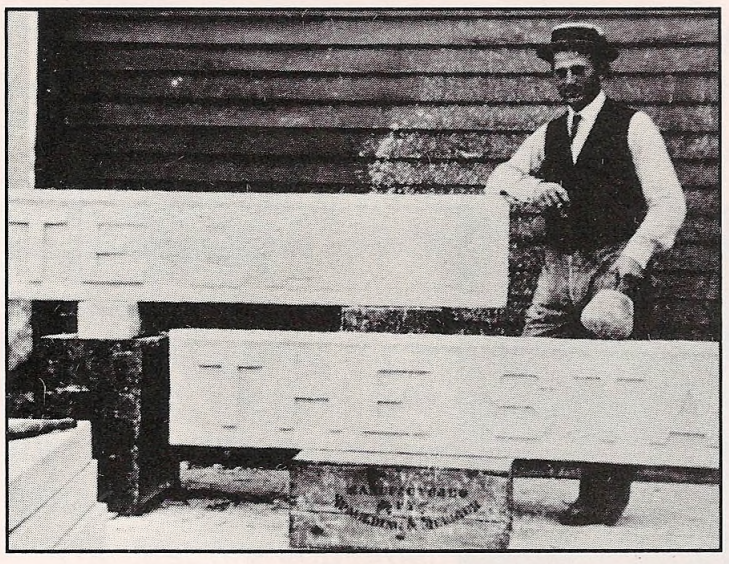
MISHICOT BANK



Constructing The State Bank At Mishicot



State Bank Of Mishicot



Stonecutter Completing The Sign For Bank

The State Bank in Mishicot was founded March 9, 1910. The construction of the bank building began at about the same time. The officers were I. Beyer, President, A. Rhode, Vice-President, H. Stehn, Cashier and Nora Stehn, Assistant Cashier. Offices were located on the second floor of the bank.

Presently, the bank building houses the Village Hall and Insurance Offices.

A new bank, several blocks to the west on Main Street now houses the bank.

THE MISHICOT TELEPHONE COMPANY

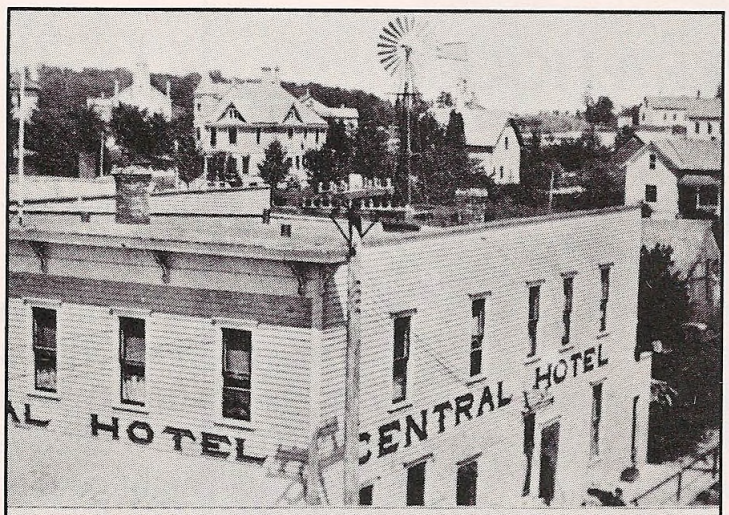
by Sherry Peters

This telephone company came into being in the year 1909. It had fifty miles of line, a radius of eight miles and one hundred and fifty subscribers.

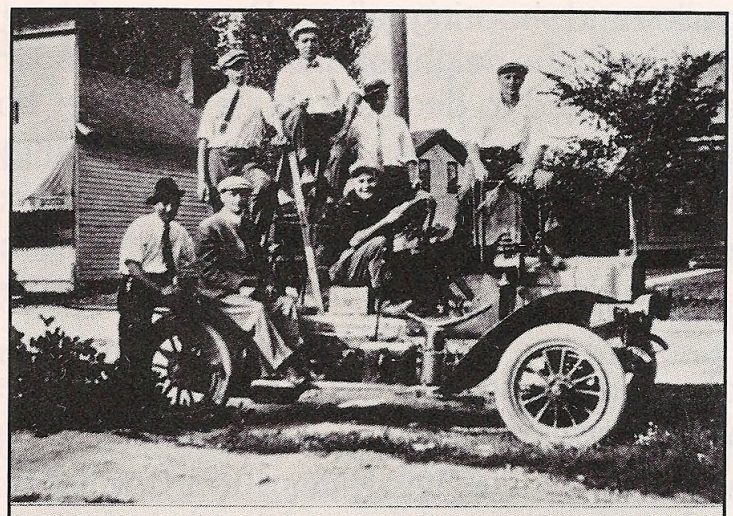
The company was run by all home people, making this the best service they could have.

The switchboard was located at the Central Hotel, run by the Stoneman Family. At that time a phone operator was called a "central".

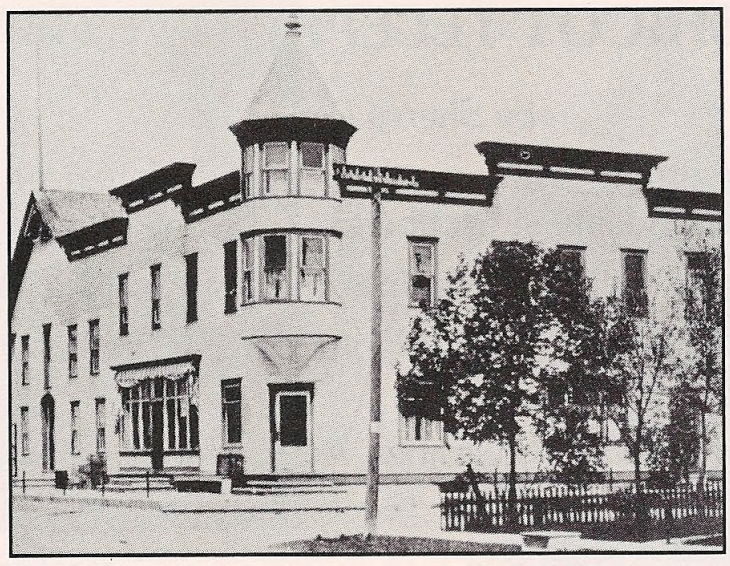
Al Pfingsten laid out all the first telephone lines. Agnes Wojta was one of the early "centrals".



BIRD'S-EYE VIEW OF MISHICOT.



MISHICOT TELEPHONE CO. REPAIRING CREW.



Levenhagen's Opera House

MISHICOT OPERA HOUSE

by Jeff Wessely

The Mishicot Opera Hotel was one of the largest of its kind in the county at the turn of the century.

The dance hall section of the building was built first and served as a popular community center for dances, festivals and meetings. After a time the living quarters were built and attached. This is the part of the building with the Victorian type tower on it. (Before the living quarters were built a small frame home had to be moved away to a new location on Elizabeth Street.) The living quarters included bedrooms which would accommodate overnight guests or boarders. The Levenhagen's would provide room and board for many of the local teachers who came to town. It was quite a common for Mrs. Levenhagen to provide three meals a day for more than a dozen hearty eaters. The Levenhagen women prepared and sold many chicken lunches and hamburgers at the many activities held in the hall.

After a time Charles Levenhagen decided to add another section to the dance hall building for a bowling alley and shooting gallery. Because of the expansion, a dispute arose over the location of the lot between the neighbor and Mr. Levenhagen. It was carried to a public lawsuit in which Mr. Levenhagen had to decide to build a smaller bowling alley with only two lanes.

In addition to the alley, the plan included the building of an ice cream parlor. Since there was no more room on the side the ice cream parlor was built in the front and extended out which formed a curve in the Main Street. Mrs. Levenhagen made her own ice cream and candy which was sold in the elegant ice cream parlor with its marble-topped tables and its wirebacked type chairs.

A gasoline engine turned the five gallon buckets in ice to freeze and make the delicious homemade ice cream.

Ice, cut from the East Twin River during the winter, was packed in sawdust and stored in the ice house. Local citizens also purchased ice from the Levenhagens for their own use.

After the opening of a four year high school in the early 1920's, the hall was used for a gym. Many spectators were in the upstairs gallery at each game. Junior proms, plays and graduations were some of the many activities.

The hall accommodated many wedding dinners, dances and receptions over the years. Raffles and local community group dinners were also part of the activity.

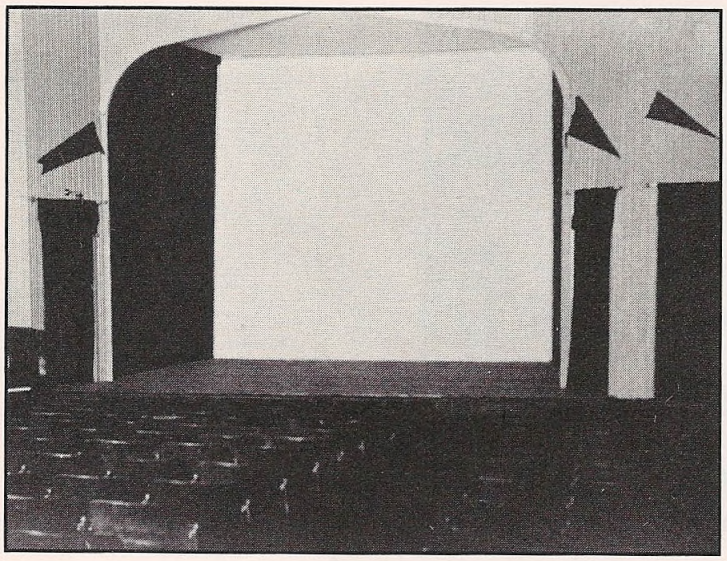
For three generations, the Levenhagens ran the business until it was sold to Frank and Rose Bremser, present owners and operators.

KIRST'S GARAGE

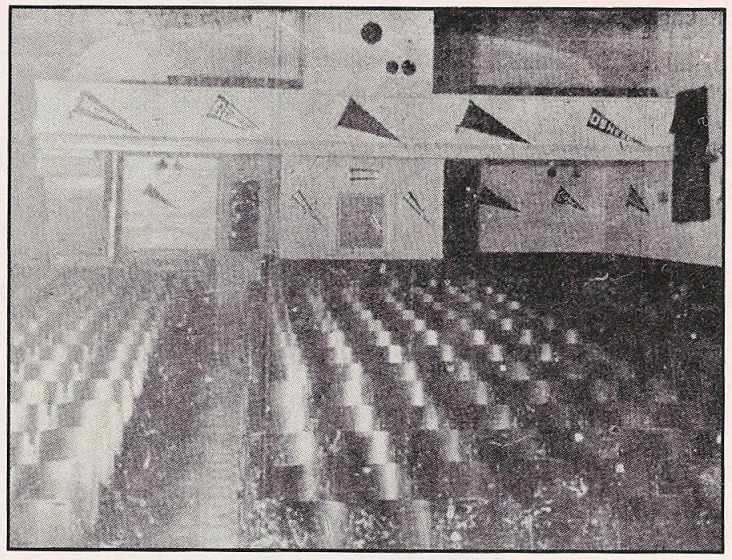
Henry Ford's Invention reached the village in due time as one of the first automotive garages opened in Mishicot. Cars arrived unassembled and sold for about $500.00. The mechanics had to set-up the car and get it ready for the customer. Touring cars had tops and side curtains for bad weather.

A Ford dealership was later operated by William Meineke in the building now occupied by Hoffmann Automotive Repair. For a time, Plymouths were also sold (along with Case farm equipment) by Jess Lambert in the 1916 building on Main Street.

The village did not have a Chevrolet dealership until 1933, when it was opened at its present location by Ed Krajnik.



Stage — Elite Theater



Seating — Elite Theater

MISHICOT'S AMUSEMENT COMPANY

by Abigail Henrickson

At one time the Elite Theater was the most up-to-date moving picture playhouse in the state and it was located here in Mishicot.

The management of this theater was interested in giving the community a real boost. Most popular were the silent movies by Charlie Chaplin. During the silent movies, a piano player provided the sound. The tempo of the music increased to provide the excitement.

Mr. Raymond Scheuer helped in the building of this theater. Inside you would have found an inclined floor, typical of modern theaters. The room in which the machine operated was lined with galvanized iron, over which asbestos was placed to insure safety.

The theater was located between Scheuer's Meat Market, now the Art and Antique Center owned and operated by Chris Baugniet, and Bill Mueller's apartment building on Main Street.

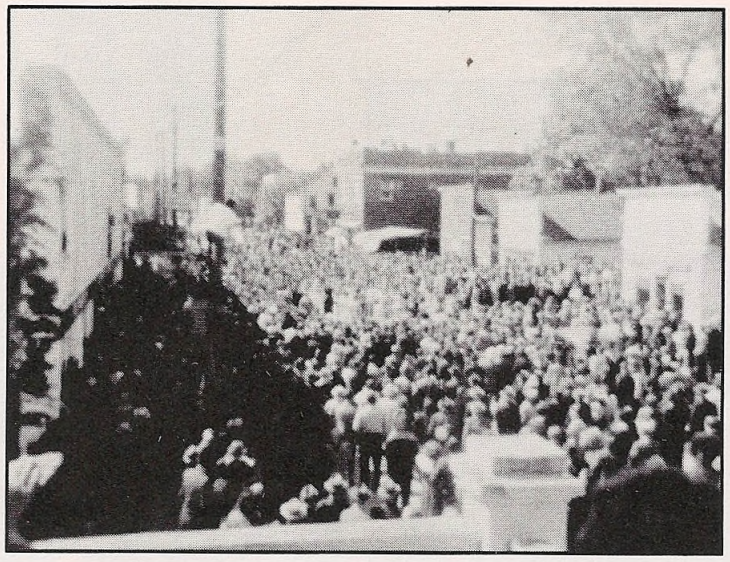
With the flickering of flames we lost our Elite Theater. Fire destroyed the building and it was never rebuilt.

RIVERVIEW PARK

A point of interest and beauty to the Mishicot Community was Riverview Park, later named Specht's Park. It was located west of the village along the East Twin River and is now known as the Veterans of Foreign Wars Park.

In the earlier days the river provided a scenic, pleasurable place for the surrounding area. Family picnics and reunions were held here during the warm summer days. The river provided boating and swimming. A pleasant white frame shelter was available for use by the patrons who paid a fee of 10¢. A bath house, raft and diving board were also maintained by Mr. Specht, park owner.

MISHICOT CELEBRATES
ITS CENTENNIAL BIRTHDAY — 1947



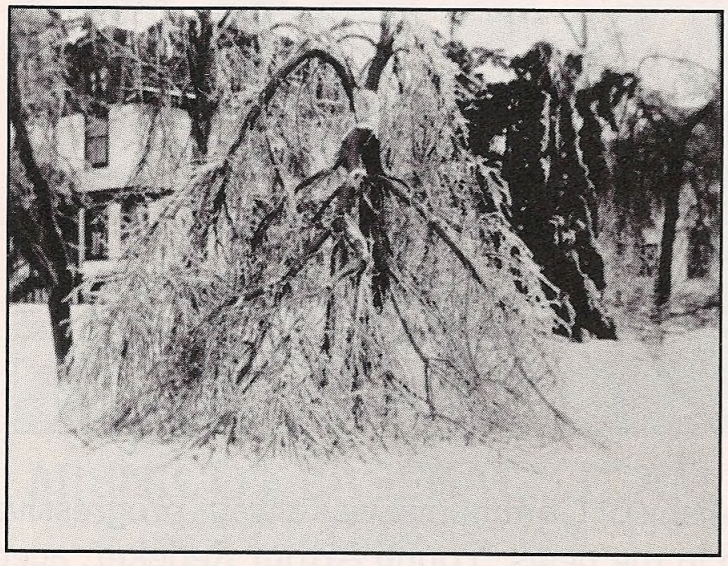
Cars were parked way out of town.

Holst's Sons Department Store Float

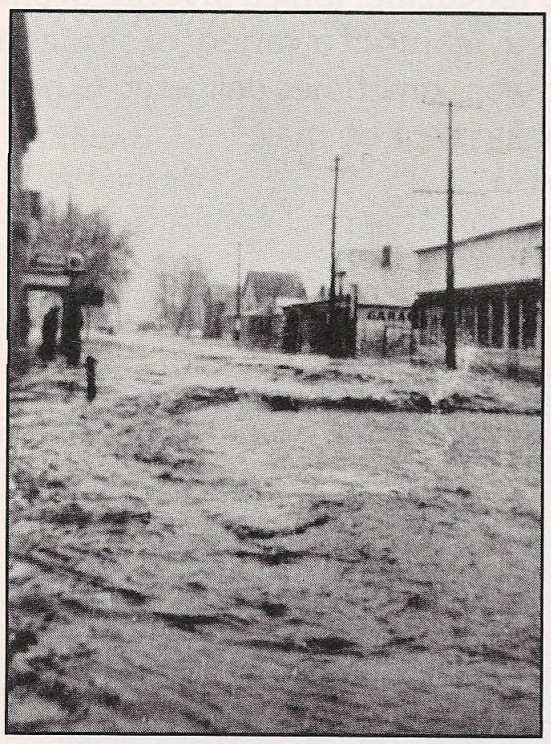
August Kasten and Henry Eller Sr. share their culture.

Hugo and Nora Holst, Hattie Meineke

DISASTER STRIKES THE VILLAGE



Destructive Sleet Storm of 1922



Flood Scene of the Early Years

Early 1900's — Flood Scene

Flood Scene Of 1959

Flood Scene Of 1966

YOUNG ARTHUR REDEKER — CHAMPION SALESMAN

Mishicot Community was always progressive and in the news. Young Arthur Redeker, aged 10, received an award for being a champion salesperson of the "Saturday Evening Post." This weekly magazine, long a favorite of small-town America, featured a variety of stories and articles, and was sometimes delivered to homes instead of being sent by mail.

MISHICOT NEWS

Mishicot, Wisconsin

NATURAL GAS IS HERE

Wisconsin Public Service Customers In Local Network

Even New House May Be Improved By Modernizing

MISHICOT NEWS

Short lived was the Mishicot News. Funding ran out to sponsor the local paper which was published in the early 1960's and featured the laying of the gas line to Mishicot.

MISHICOT BASEBALL TEAM 1912

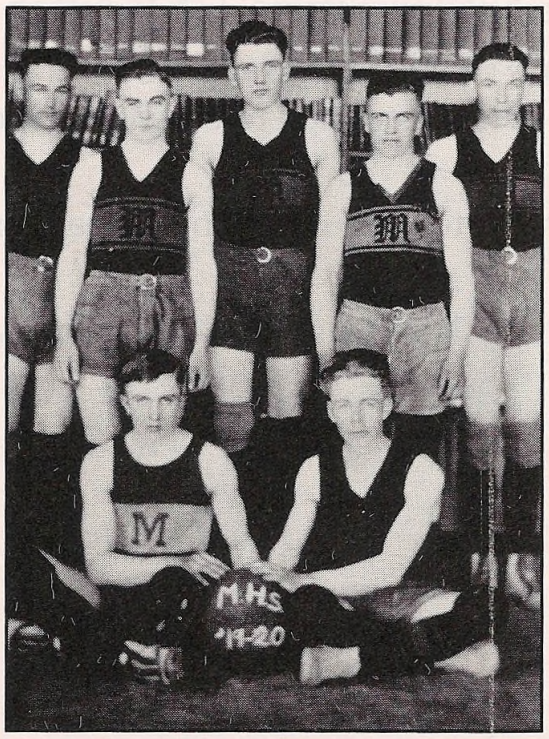
1st Row
Elmer Levenhagen, Nick Stoneman
Hugo Holst

Middle Row
Al Pfingsten
Ted Connely
Arthur Holst
Earl Scheuer
August Cochnet

Back Row
Harry Weinfurther
Henry Greenwood
Ray Scheuer
Lulu Levenhagen
Earl Stoneman
Charles Kolicek

MISHICOT BASKETBALL TEAM 1911-1912

Back Row — Left to Right
Earl Scheuer, Ray Scheuer, and
Earl Stoneman
Middle Row — Left to Right
Mr. Prucha, principal, Hans Scheuer
Art Holst, George Larson and
Henry Greenwood
Front Row — seated, Left to Right
Elmer Levenhagen, August Cochnet



MISHICOT HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL 1920

Standing, Left to Right
Ray Cochenet
William Wojta
Allen Stoneman
Julius Kolichek
Joe Zima

Sitting, Left to Right
Robert Guse
Oliver Mathieson

ATHLETICS

The Mishicot Community has always supported basketball and baseball from its earliest days. Local business men would often support the groups by furnishing the funds for uniforms and equipment.

Mishicot basketball teams have often been recognized in area and state competition as champions. Basketball was always played at Levenhagen's Hall. During the twenties and thirties the Mishicot High School teams also practiced here. This hall was used until the opening of the new High School in the late fifties.

MISHICOT HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

by Kevin Bruhn, Paul LaChappelle, Joe Moniot

In 1952-53 the Mishicot High School enjoyed a very good season. With Coach Woody Bergner, they won the consolation district WIAA meet. They were part of the Peninsula Conference where they won fifteen games and lost five.

The 1954-55 Mishicot basketball team completed their regular season schedule with an undefeated seventeen wins and no loss record. They received publicity by having a special feature article written in the Milwaukee Journal newspaper.

The home games were played in the Mishicot Opera House (now Frank and Rose's). Practices were held there too until a little after three, because most of the team had to catch a bus to get home.

Most of the boys worked out after finishing the farm chores in the barn of Anton Zeman, one of the boys' fathers.

Outstanding players on this team included: Don Vogt, Jack Zeman, Paul Pfingsten, Jack Spevacek, Mark Last and Harlan Harpt.

BANDS OF MISHICOT

by Joe Steffens

The Village of Mishicot had a band called the Mishicot National Band which performed from 1909 to about 1914. It played for dances in the area. Anton Shedivy was the band director with other members named: Ed Stechmesser, George Princl, Alvin Stechmesser, John Flentje and Herbert Stechmesser.

Another group, the Brouchoud Brothers, formed a Mishicot National Band also. Their band featured the string instruments and played for local parties and dances.

The largest band of the area was the Mishicot Community Band which consisted of thirty-eight to forty members of the community. Since music was not a regular course at the Mishicot High School at that time, some of the students joined the Community Band. Music lessons were given by William B. Jones, music director from Two Rivers. He also held regular practices with the band members. Band members had to buy their own instruments and uniforms. The uniforms were white skirts or trousers, black coats and matching hats. White blouses or shirts with black ties and white shoes completed the uniform.

Regular concerts were held at the Mishicot Opera House or outdoors on a platform in front of the Mishicot High School. People of the surrounding area would come to the outdoor concerts in the summer time and sit on the lawn to listen to the concert.

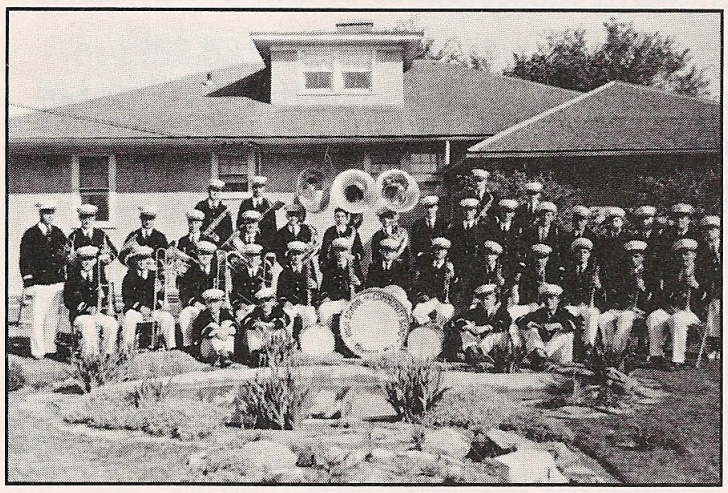
The Community Band often marched in parades in Mishicot and Two Rivers. Mishicot was very proud of its Community Band.

BROUCHOUD BROTHERS

Left to right
Richard, Edward and Peter

NATIONAL BAND — 1909-1914

Front Row — Left to Right
Anton Shedivy, Edward Steckmesser and George Princl
Back Row — Left to Right
Alvin Steckmesser, Kurt Steckmesser John Flentje and Herbert Steckmesser



MISHICOT COMMUNITY BAND

MISHICOT COMMUNITY BAND

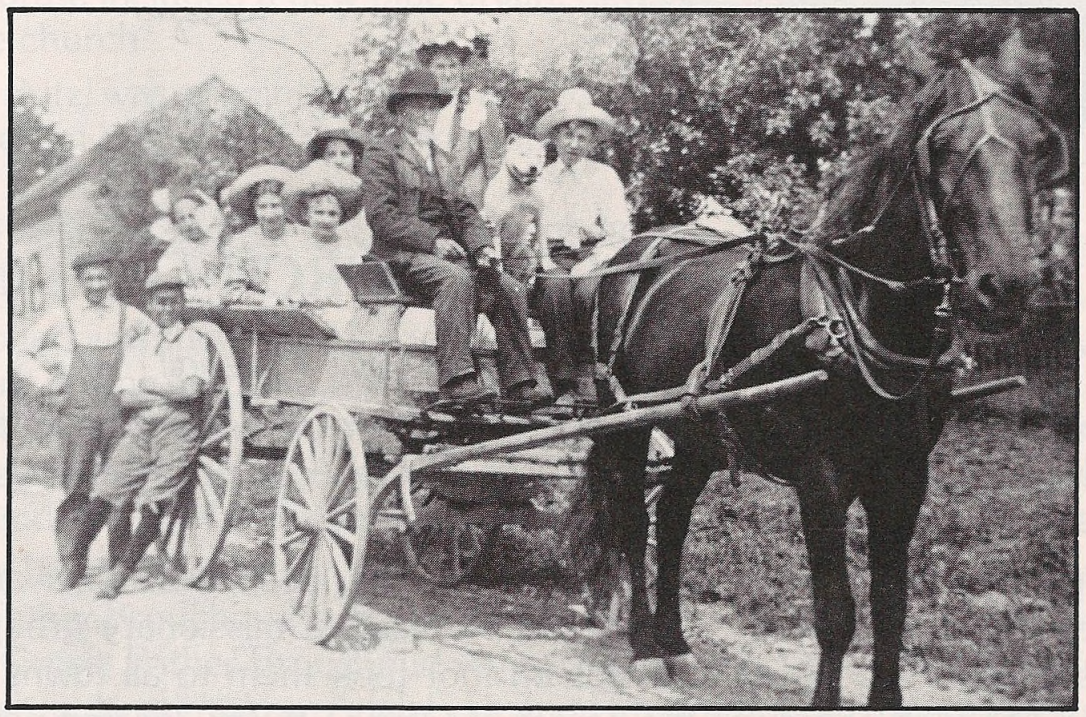
Before the days of the regular music course at the Mishicot High School interested students and community members joined together to form the Community Band. Regular evening practices were held with Professor Jones as the director.

Members of the band were —
Back row, left to right — *Herbert Bernhardt, Bernard Brouchoud, Gordon Levenhagen, Melvin Graycarek.* Next row: *Reuben Harpt, Frederick Eisenmann, William Kracht, Mark Hoffman, Anton Shedivy, Emil Spevacek, Wallace Nejedlo, Emil Krainek, Bernard Schwake, Frank Kliment, William Stechmesser, Franklin Eisenmann, Eunice Stechmesser, Hazel Mueller, Alice Zell, and Etta Mueller.* Front row, seated: *William Meineke, Paul Specht, Randolph Stehn, Earl Reiss, William Lukes, Edward Ording, Director William B. Jones, Hugo Holst, Alvin Dvorak, Frank Hinesh, Adolph Shebesta, Charles Krcma, Robert Johanek.* Seated on the ground are: *Russell Goedjen, Kenneth LaBudda, Stanley Stelzer and Paul Mueller.*

RELIGION — A HIGHLIGHT OF THE MISHICOT COMMUNITY

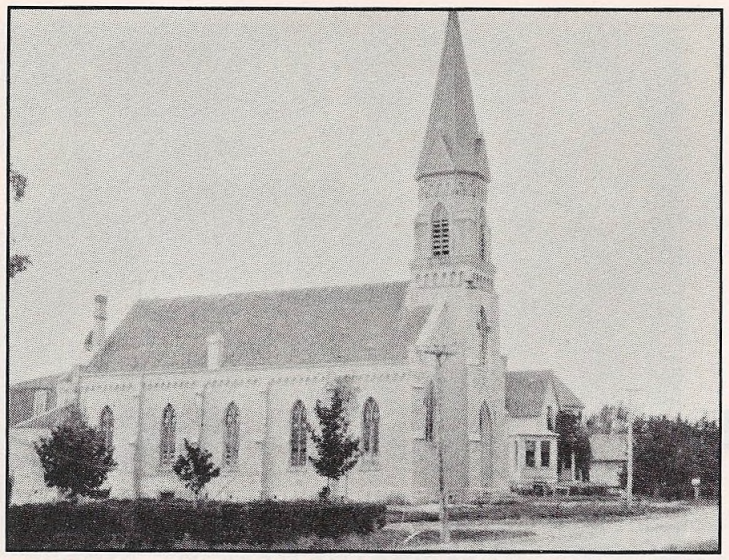
The community of Mishicot has always cherished religion in one creed or another. Over the years three churches became the basic roots of the community embracing the Roman Catholic, Evangelical Methodist and Wisconsin Synod Lutheran Churches. Three churches have been erected by the various religious groups and stand as symbols to the Christian Faith.

Sunday is recognized as the day of worship for each group. Before the coming of the motor car, horses and buggies or wagons were used as the mode of transportation. The local stores often remained open on Sunday to accommodate the Sunday go-to-church people who also did necessary shopping on their way in to the village from the country.

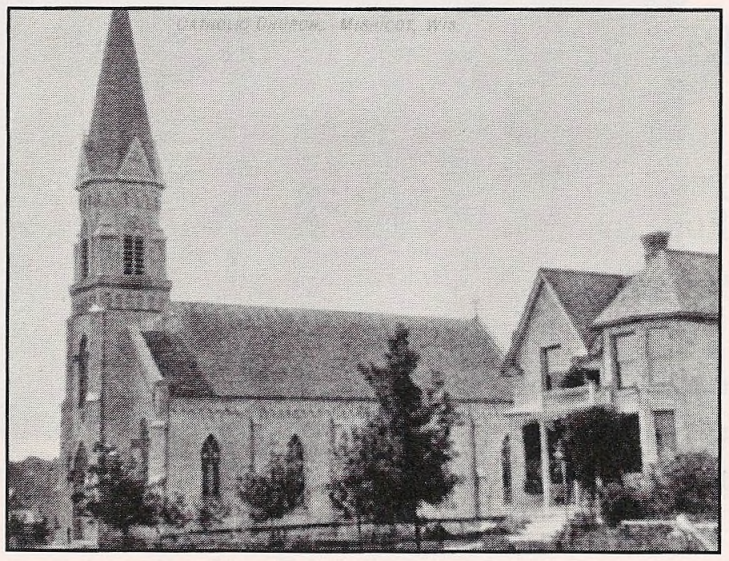


A FAMILY IN THEIR SUNDAY BEST

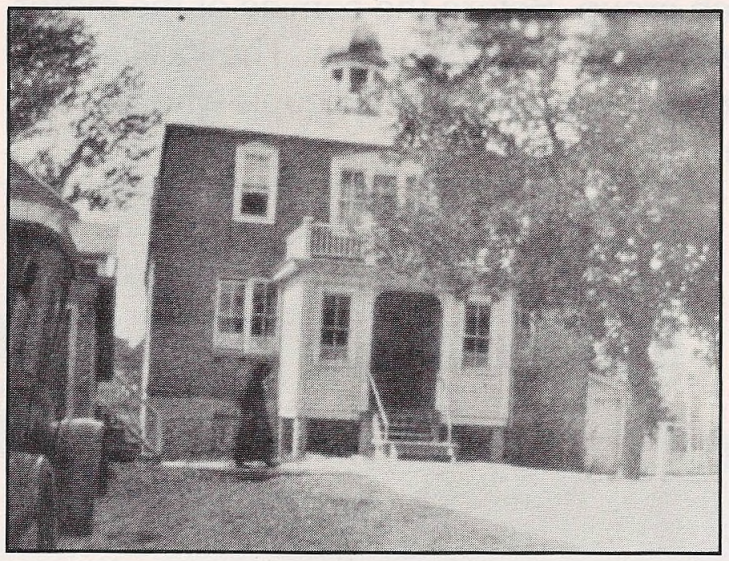
Nora Stehn Holst is pictured in second row.



Holy Cross Church



Holy Cross Rectory and Church



First Holy Cross School

HOLY CROSS CHURCH

by Angie Eis, Mike Hewitt and Billy Marshall

In the very beginning Holy Cross was a Mission Station that was visited occasionally by priests who were serving St. Luke's Congregation in Two Rivers. A small chapel was built in 1854 to serve as a place of worship for the people in this area.

Prior to this time, the community was served by Father Joseph Brunner and later Father Winner, both of whom were from the Society of Jesus, a missionary group of Jesuits of exceptional missionary zeal, whose journeys on foot took them to all towns near the Lake Michigan shores. On such occasions the homes of Oliver LeClair, located near the Mishicot Locker plant; Fortier's, later owned by Florenz Baugniet, and Scheuer's, near Steiner's Corners, were opened to their fellow Catholics for Mass.

Holy Cross continued to be a mission of St. Luke's until 1857 when Rev. A.B. Rinkes became the first resident pastor of the parish.

It was decided in 1860-61 to organize a parish at Mishicot and by 1862 a church had been built. It was a frame structure with a pioneer Gothic Style tower. The church was truly a tribute to the deep faith and the spirit of sacrifice of those early pioneers.

It was estimated that there were seventy families when the parish was formally organized.

A glimpse at the church records shows the first baptism to be that of Mary Boudewyn, who was born April 6, 1863 and who was baptized on Christmas day, 1863. Some of the other interesting facts reveal that the first marriage was that of Oliver LeClair. Mr. LeClair was born in 1822 and died April 11, 1864. A zealous worker for the young parish, he had donated the land on which the parish buildings stand and the old cemetery plot where he is buried.

With the passing of time Holy Cross once again became a mission parish served by St. Luke's. Between 1878 and 1880 the parish was served by Father Hellweger, Father George Veith and Father H. Reuter. The parish was without a pastor for two years until Rev. Sales Beck came in 1882. He was succeeded in 1885 by Rev. A.N. Buschle and Rev. W.F. VanRoosemalen who served the parish from 1886 to 1890. It was during this pastorate that the first set of stations donated by William Cochems were installed.

In 1894 the entire church was rebuilt.

For a number of years Holy Cross was once again a mission parish of St. Anne's at Francis Creek. During the pastorate of Rev. Aloysius Bastian (1897-1899) the first parsonage was built. The Rev. J.C. Bourgmeyer succeeded him and in 1900 Father Phillip St. Louis was assigned to Mishicot. With the help of John Cochems, Father St. Louis was instrumental in building the first parochial school, and Catholic education for the children of Holy Cross, under the tutelage of the Sisters of St. Francis of Bay Settlement, became a reality.

Father Arthur Belle was named pastor in 1909. By this time the parish had increased to about eighty-nine families and in 1913 the school was enlarged to a two room school building with living quarters upstairs for the sisters. In 1915, the altars were redecorated and the oil paintings of the stations, which still decorate the church walls, were donated by parishoners.

In September, 1926, Rev. Michael Gonnering succeeded Father Belle. Major improvements during this pastorate included a new pipe organ, new vestments, remodeling the rectory and redecorating the church.

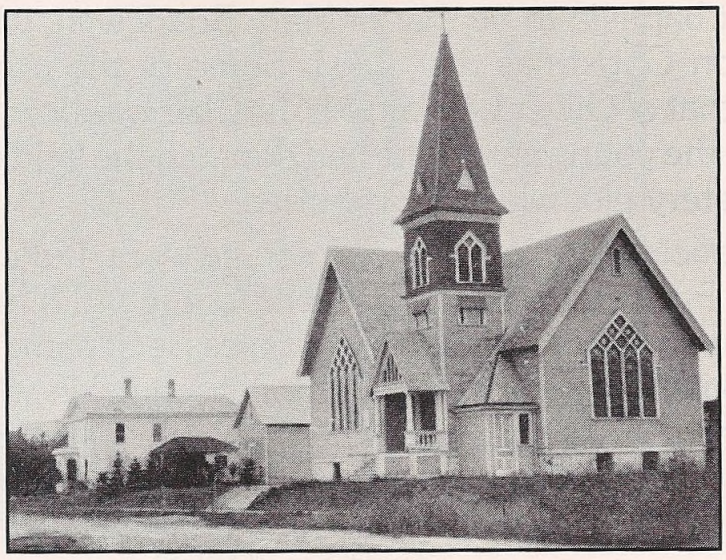
Father Alfred Pritzl was appointed pastor in 1932. He served this parish until 1938. Under his direction the present cemetery was incorporated to provide perpetual care and funds for its maintenance.

Father Joseph Van Bogart became pastor in 1938 and continued until his sudden death on January 9th, 1946.

Father Van Bogart was succeeded by Rev. George Beth. The present school, gym, and sister's convent were built during his pastorate and were dedicated on May 10, 1952. On November 12, 1958 Father Beth was transferred to St. Mark's Catholic Church in Two Rivers, and was succeeded by Rev. Anthony Betley. In 1961 a new rectory was built and the church was enlarged and remodeled and in 1963 the parish celebrated its one hundredth anniversary.

On November 15, 1971, the parish welcomed Rev. Earl Brouchoud, a priest-son of the parish, as their pastor. Father Brouchoud is the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Richard Brouchoud. During his stay at Holy Cross, Father Brouchoud revitalized the Christian Education Program for the youth of the parish and instituted an Adult Education Program. With the strong support of a good friend and benefactor, Florenz Baugniet, the parish built an addition to the school. Another project conducted by Father Brouchoud, was that of remodeling the church to include redecorating and carpeting. Father Brouchoud also started the deacon program at Holy Cross. Frank Kroll, a classmate and good friend of Father Brouchoud's, was the deacon. Father George Kiefer was also assisting with parish services. Father Brouchoud left Holy Cross for his new assignment in DePere in June of 1982.

Today, Father Richard L. Allen is the pastor at Holy Cross Parish in Mishicot. He took over this assignment in July of 1982.



Evangelical Church

Zion United Methodist Church

ZION UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

by Amy Wanish

In the early 1800's a group of German Christians wished to organize a church. These people lived in the Two Rivers and Mishicot area and called themselves Evangelicals.

After a great deal of consideration the Evangelicals were able to get an itinerant preacher to travel on horseback and serve their parish one Sunday a month. Ironic as it may sound, his pay was a bag of oats for his horse, a meal with a parish family for himself, free lodging when necessary, but very little, if any cash. It was customary at the time that Sermons and most conversation be in German.

In 1857, Reverend Peter Held preached in German in homes in the Saxonburg area.

One acre of land was purchased from the Lensing family for $1.00 east of the creek on Saxonburg Hill. This was to be the site of the Evangelical Church. When the church was constructed it was a shingled building. The interior of the church was papered and there was a furnace in the center of the church.

Looking over the church records we find many names that appeared in the formative years of the church. Some of the names included are: Bernhardt, Pfefferkorn, Lensing, Raasch, Mueller, Reisland, Witte and Bruhn.

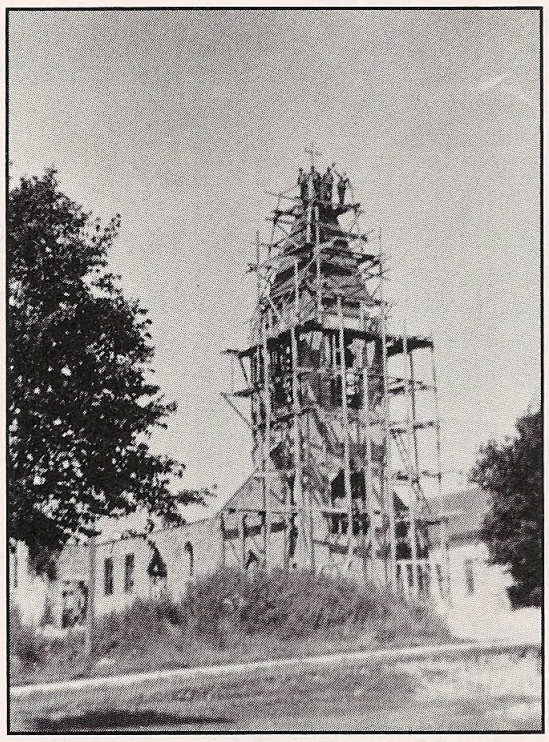
This building was used until 1903 when the present church, which now stands in the Village of Mishicot, was built for $3,500.

Since 1903, the Evangelicals joined with the United Brethren and then the United Methodist.

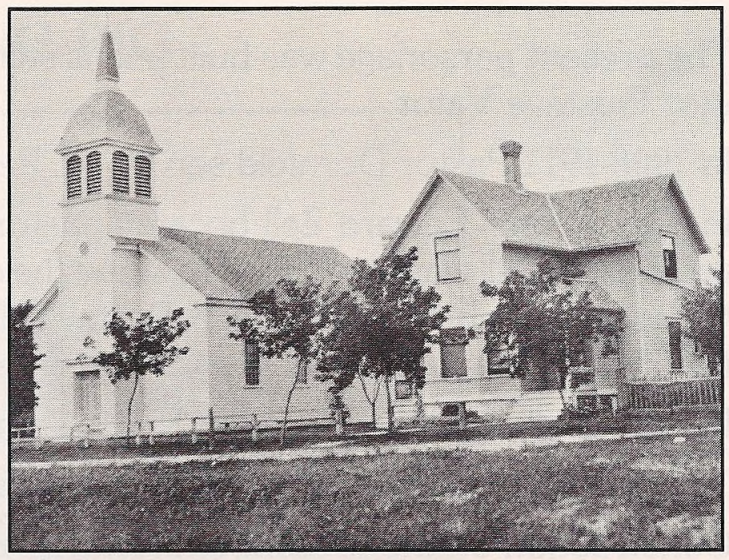
During the 1920's through the 1930's the building was heated with a hand fired furnace located in the basement. Adolph Eisenmann used to walk to Mishicot from his homestead every Sunday morning and fire the furnace so the building would be warm enough when the services began. Later the furnace was converted to a gas furnace.

Today, Reverend Ronald Helgeson is the leader of the flock and the church is known as Zion United Methodist Church. Many of the early family names are still on the church records because there are many descendents of those early families that are still members of this church.

In 1984, an electrically lighted symbol for the United Methodist Church was installed by Mr. and Mrs. Earl Weiss in memory of Mrs. Weiss's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Adolph Eisenmann.



Constructing St. Peter's Lutheran Church — 1925



St. Peter's Church — Wooden Frame Building

St. Peter's Lutheran Church

ST. PETER'S CHURCH

by Jodi Mueller, Mari Lynn Evers, Daniel Loeh and Emily Lande

On May 20, 1861, a group of dedicated Christians organized St. Peter's Congregation. The first service was conducted in the public school on cemetery hill by Pastor Goldammer, from Manitowoc.

From 1863-1872 the congregation was served by three pastors, Pastor Batels, Pastor Quehl and Pastor Zuberbier, all of Two Rivers.

From 1872-1874 Pastor Nietman and Pastor Frankenstein served the people. As the congregation grew they were able to build Pastor Frankenstein a parsonage. His home was also used as a school for individual or small group instruction. Two lots were also purchased at this time by the congregation.

Pastor Jaeger served St. Peter's Congregation from 1874-1881.

In 1875 the first church was built.

From 1881-1902 the congregation was served by Pastors Prohl, Koehler, Ziegler and Doehler.

In 1902 St. Peter's Congregation and the congregation of Rockwood combined to form one parish, which is still the practice today.

The present parsonage was built and is still used today. The first pastor to reside there was Pastor Gustave Vator.

In 1908-1911 Pastor Dornfeld served St. Peter's.

In 1911 Pastor Edward Zell became pastor. He served St. Peter's Church for forty-seven years. Pastor Zell was also asked to serve the congregation of Jambo Creek, which he did until 1949, when that church disbanded. Pastor Zell received three calls to leave St. Peter's, but was determined to stay and serve the people here in Mishicot.

In 1920 English services were held once a month.

The old school building was sold and removed to make way for the present church in 1925.

Construction on the present church was started in 1925. The architect was Karl Koehler. From an aerial view you would immediately notice the church was designed in the shape of a cross.

On June 12, 1927 the new church was dedicated. The former pastors Doehler, Dornfeld and Vator took part in this service.

In 1930 the congregation voted to have three English services and one German service a month.

The choir was started in 1932 by Miss Alice Zell.

The ladies' Bible hour was started in 1933.

In 1942 more land was purchased and used as a parking lot.

In 1953 the congregation purchased a new Conn Electric Organ for the church. This added a great deal to the Sunday services.

After serving St. Peter's for forty-seven years Pastor Zell went to his eternal reward in 1958. Three months after Pastor Zell's death, Pastor Worgull was installed as pastor of St. Peter's. At about the same time Vacation Bible School and the Young People's Society were started.

In 1961 four and a half acres were purchased north of the church on the hill. In the future, it was the congregation's intention to use this land for a Christian Day School in the future. That same year the 100th anniversary of the congregation was observed.

Arlyn Schmeling became the vacancy pastor in 1965. Finally, on November 20, 1966 Pastor Herbert Kesting of Gibbon, Minnesota was installed as pastor. Pastor Kesting made arrangements for Seminary students to assist with communion in 1968. During this time the tower and sacristy were remodeled.

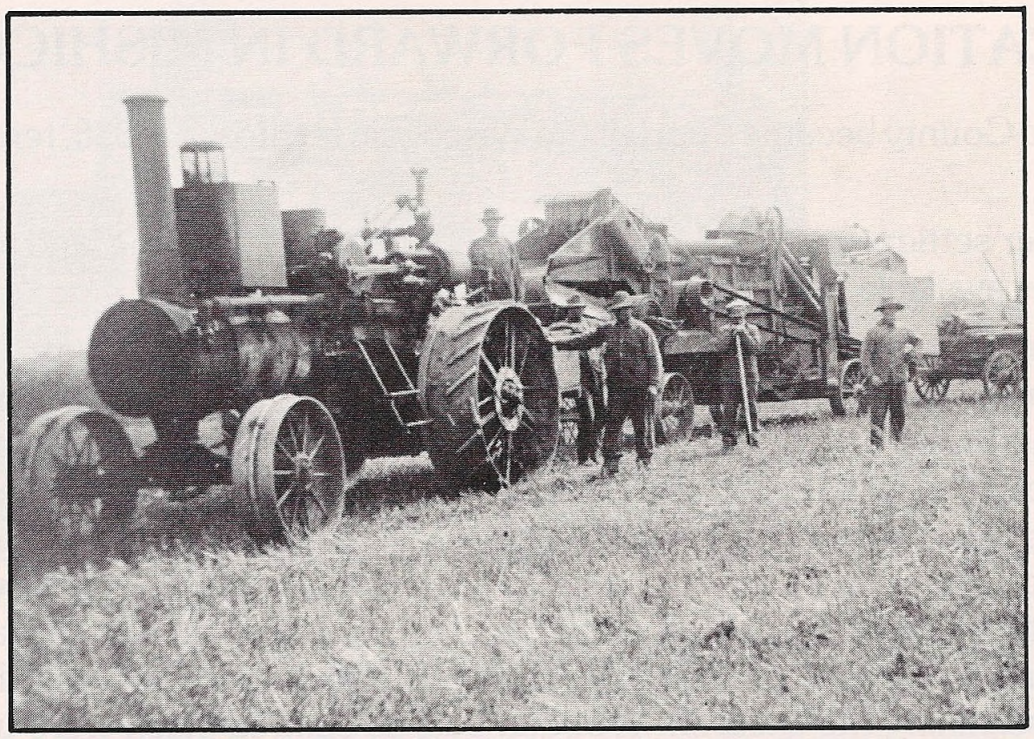
In 1971 the congregation joined with Pastor Kesting in celebrating thirty-five years of pastoral ministry. At this same time, plans were being drawn for an addition to the church proper.

Ground breaking ceremonies were observed on April 2nd, 1972. Dedication of the new addition was held on October 22, 1972.

In 1983 an electric carillon was given to the congregation as a gift from Frederick and Hazel Eisenmann in memory of their parents.

On March 3rd, 1985 Pastor David Waege will have given his answer to God's call and was installed as the new pastor of St. Peter's and Rockwood Congregations.

THRESHING RIG



Brouchoud Brothers Threshing Rig

The Brouchoud Brothers, Andrew and Joe, owned and operated a threshing rig complete with steam engine and machine. Beside doing their own crops, the brothers traveled in the surrounding area. The threshing crew always received a big dinner, prepared by the farm wife. The hearty appetites were always appeased with the luscious home cooking.

The countryside changes with time. The farms take on a new look and so did the farmland formerly owned by Joe Brouchoud. Today the Mishicot High School and Elementary School transform the landscape into a new look.

Joe Brouchoud's Team
Barn on Present School Site

EDUCATION MOVES FORWARD IN MISHICOT

After Manitowoc County became a part of the Wisconsin territory in 1836, territorial schools were set up.

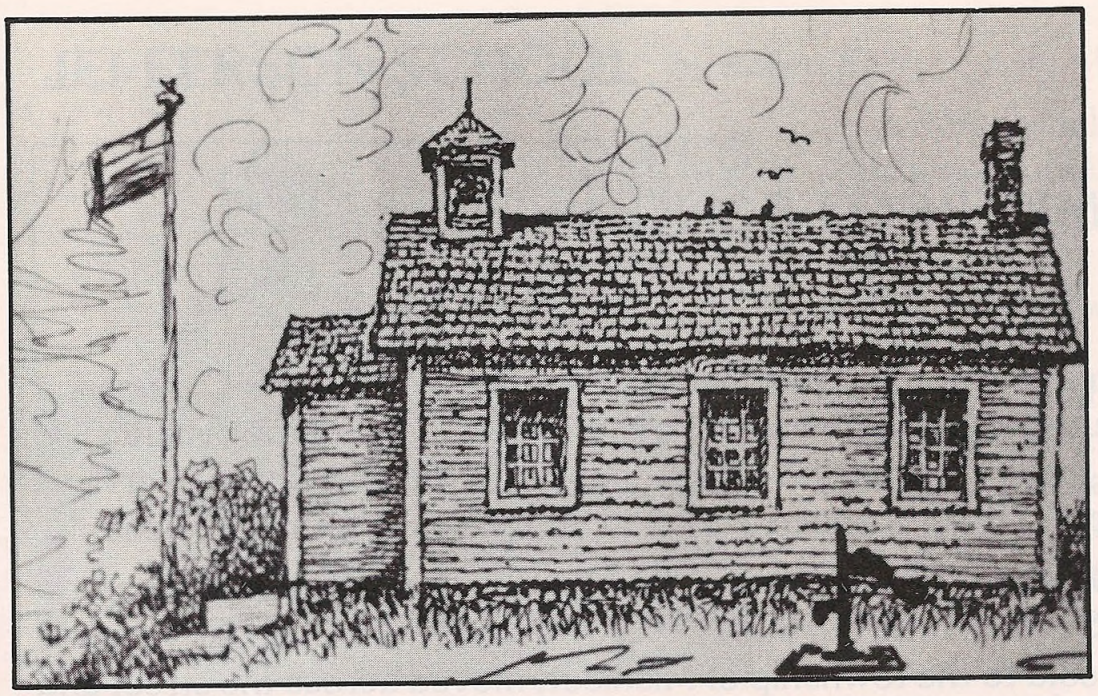
When the pioneer settlers came to Manitowoc County, they found the land forest covered. Because of the logs available, the houses and schools were built of log.

The first pioneer log school house was furnished with home-made furniture. The desks and seats were made by someone in the district and were usually eight to ten feet in length. They were all one size, and small children sat with their legs dangling off the floor. The long benches and desks were separated by an aisle down the middle of the room. The boys sat on one side and the girls sat on the other. A large wood-burning stove sat in the middle of the room. Two or three windows along each long side of the schoolroom gave the light inside. These windows were provided with shutters, which were closed for the night. The teacher's desk was placed on a small platform across the front of the room. A special place on the teacher's desk held the willow switch used for disciplining the children. Wooden boards painted black were used for blackboards. A map of the state and nation made up the equipment. Books were brought from home or by the teacher. Students had their own slates and slate pencils.

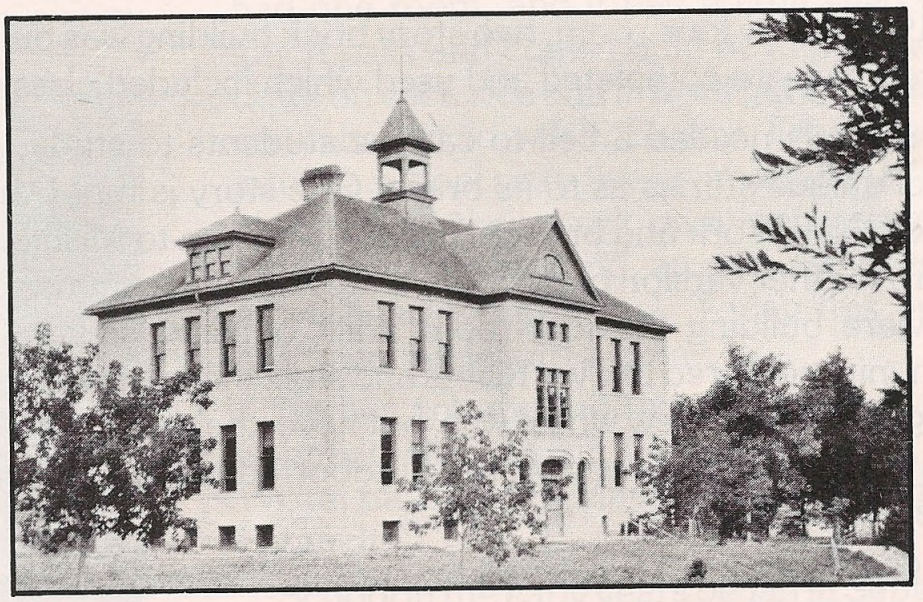
The school term was often limited to three month terms of twenty-two days per month. Some schools maintained two five or six school terms per year. The winter term began in November and ended in February or March. The summer term began in April or May and closed in July or August. The wages paid teachers for winter months was usually higher because older students often attended these classes. Pay ranged from $25 per month with "boarding 'round" to $50 per month.

The course of study included the three "R's," and students were classified by readers rather than grades. Diploma examinations were given so students could graduate and be granted a diploma.

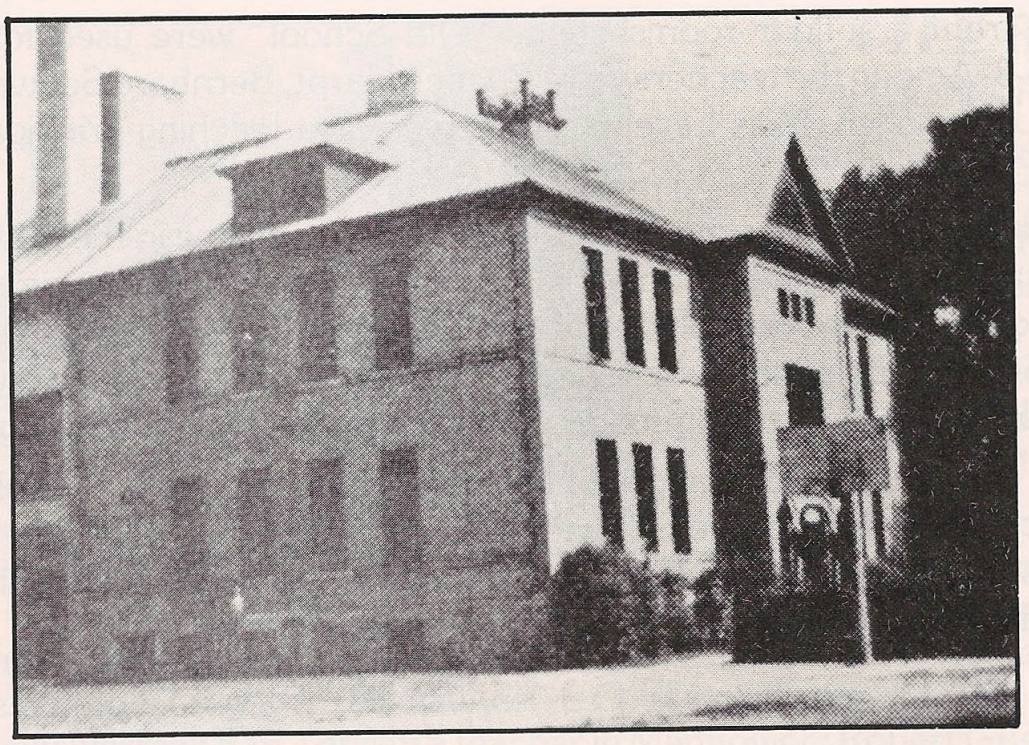
During the 1940's, 1950's and 1960's, the small schools were consolidated into a High School District. This is the way the School District of Mishicot developed to its present size, maintaining a modern elementary and high school building with an enrollment of 1200 students in kindergarten through grade twelve.



First Mishicot School — Cemetery Hill



Mishicot Graded School



Mishicot Grade and High School

MISHICOT SCHOOL

by Michael Brown, Christine Bonfigt and Lisa Wiegert

The first school for the Mishicot community was one shared with Jambo Creek District and was located about one and one-half miles northwest of the village. Because of the distance for the village children to travel, a small building was erected on cemetery hill. Church services were also held in this early school. This was one of the first frame buildings built in the county.

In 1873, the pioneer building was abandoned and a new two-room frame building was built on a site of land donated by Daniel Smith, founder of the Village of Mishicot. This building was used for about 32 years. It was then sold to the township of Mishicot, moved across the street and used for a town hall. Presently this building is used as a storage building for the village.

In 1905, a new four-room, two story brick building was built at the cost of $6,000. By 1915, all four rooms were completed and used which included classes up to tenth grade.

All schools needed a bell to call the students to study, and the Mishicot School Bell has several unique stories as to its origin. One story is that Daniel Smith salvaged it from a train wreck in New York and brought it along with him to Mishicot. It was donated to the school by Smith. Another version of the story states that the community was running short of cash when they were building the four-room brick building. Several mischievous young men of the community ventured to Two Rivers and stole the bell off the train engine parked in the depot for the night. No one knew who it was, but nevertheless the bell was an engine bell. Presently, that bell is built into the tower on the outdoor education building adjacent to the O. H. Schultz Elementary School.

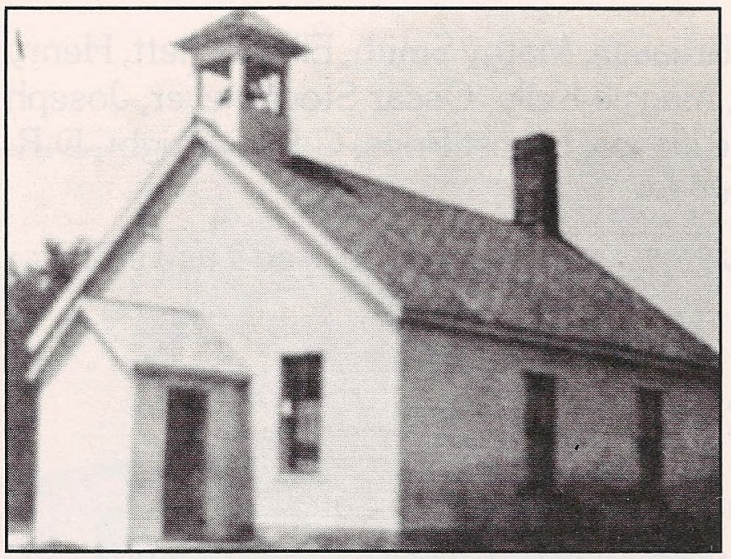
In 1920, four more classrooms and an auditorium were added to the Mishicot School. It then became a four-year high school with an expanded curriculum. The grade school was also housed in the same building. Levenhagen's Hall at the Opera House was used as a gym for basketball games, concerts, plays and graduations as well as school dances and parties.

For many years the two front first-floor rooms of the "Old School" were used for the elementary grades, 1-4 and 5-8. Among the teachers were Rueben Harpt, Bernhard Schwauke, Elizabeth Hartl and Hazel Levenhagen. Miss Levenhagen served as a teaching principal for many years.

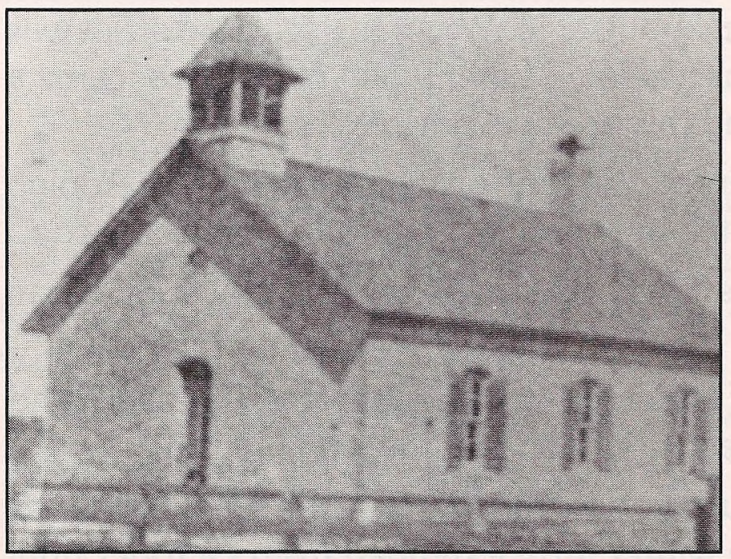
In the late 1940's, consolidation regulations moved education at a rapid pace in the Mishicot Community. Otto H. Schultz, High School Principal, teacher and District Administrator and progressive educator worked through the consolidation and building of the new High School in the fifties, the new O. H. Schultz Elementary School in the sixties and more recently the addition of a complex on the High School to accommodate the expanding educational program.

Because of the increasing enrollment and changes to be made, the old Central School was retained as an elementary school for grades one through eight, with a full-time principal, Mrs. Hazel Eisenmann. It was closed and reopened until it was sold to Lyle Anderson. Anderson has converted the building into a unique store with craft and collectible stores on all floors.

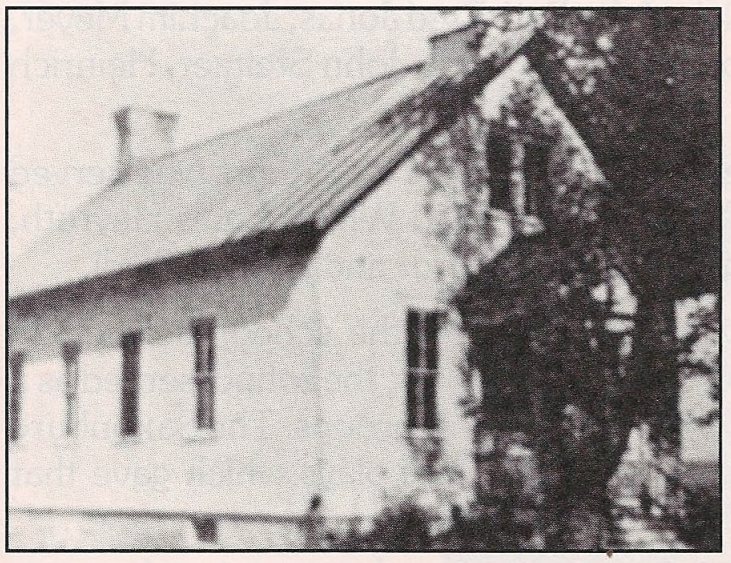
JEFFERSON SCHOOL *by Laura Ferry, James Warner and Dennise Gordon*



Jefferson School



Kettle Range School



Saxonburg School

Jefferson School is one of the oldest school buildings in Manitowoc County. It was named Jefferson in honor of Thomas Jefferson, the third president of the United States.

This school was organized in the early 1850's and was first named the Altmeyer School because Johann Altmeyer was the original owner of the land on which the school was built. It was also called the "School Section" school. The first school was a log building. It had one room, and cost about twenty-five dollars to build.

The second school (1869) was also a log building, with wood siding added later. It too had one room, and it had a little shed where lunch pails and coats could be kept. Two windows on each side and in front gave the children enough light to work. Electric lights were put into the school sixty-five years later. At first the children did their work on a long home-made table and bench, and an old-fashioned box stove heated the school. Today this building has been made into a home.

Names common to this school were Emma Schmidt, Henry Eller, George Barthels, Helen Wilke, Laura Petri, Mayme Scheuer and Clara Schmidt.

School in the early years began in September and lasted until March. This was called the winter session. The summer session began in April and ended in August.

KETTLE RANGE SCHOOL

by Charles Rabitz and Steve Tuma

In August of 1865 Mishicot Joint District No. 2 was formed. The town supervisors of the townships of Mishicot and Gibson formed the district. It was located in the Kettle Range area and thus derived its name from the location. The first school cost $173.92 to build. Material cost $41.90. A new brick school was built in 1887. It is located two miles north of Mishicot on Highway 163.

Some of the people who attended the Kettle Range School were the Benesch girls who later became teachers in the county; Albert Tetzlaff, who later became our county clerk; Glynden Tetzlaff who taught in Milwaukee; L.O. Tetzlaff who became the principal of Sheboygan County Normal; Earl Tetzlaff a teacher in Manitowoc; Robert Guse formerly a county supervising teacher; Randolph Stehn, a cashier of Mishicot State Bank; Hugo Ploeckelmann, town clerk of Mishicot; and Ernest Wilsmann, a former teacher and retired postal worker.

Some of the teachers were Henry Tisch, Casper Braasch, Mathy Smith, Ella Sachett, Henry Sibere, Charles and Melora Shove, Annie Burnett, Maggie Kelly, Oscar Stockmeyer, Joseph Wojta, Casper Ploeckelmann, Walter Runge, Lizzie Hages, Ernest Pries, C.F. Canright, D.R. Soler, Nancy Quistorf, J.A. Miller and Melvin Halverson.

After the closing of the school it was purchased by Norman Schmidt who used it as a store for garden produce until his retirement.

THE SAXONBURG SCHOOL

by Andrea Bock, Leah Ferry, John Lischka and Tom Sand

Mishicot School District No. 3 was known as the Saxonburg district because the early settlers of this community came from Saxony, Germany. It is believed that they named this site in memory of their homeland.

The first settlers in this community settled here in about 1845. When the school district was organized in the early 1850's it was known as Mishicot No. 4. Later when Mishicot became a township, the school districts were renumbered and this area became No. 3.

The first school, a semi-log frame structure, was erected in 1850 on what was then the Adolph Eisenmann farm. After nearly fifty years of service, the building was sold to August Schroeder.

The second schoolhouse was built in 1899. It was a frame structure planned by E.H. Tegen and framed by August Schroeder.

An open porch led into an entry. On each side of the entry were cloakrooms. The walls and ceiling were covered with tin. The building had a basement and an attic.

Mishicot No. 3 had summer and winter sessions up to about 1875. The three month summer session began in April and ended in July, while the winter term extended from October until March.

Some of the early settlers who came to this area included: John Brodkorb, Gottfried Mueller, Carl and Fred Brockmann, Carl Pfening, Chas. LeClair, John Reif, Fred Jonas, Joachim Meyer, Carl Fleischer, Fred and Albert Voight, John Schroeder, Fred White, John Steltzer, Heinrich Assmann and John Huss.

Members of the first schoolboard were Fred Mueller and Fred Witte Sr. Others who served on the board prior to 1906 were Henry Mueller, Fred Halberg, Fred White, Louis Heyroth, Gustave Brodkorb, John Schroeder, John Benzinger, Otto Bernhardt and Adolph Seidl.

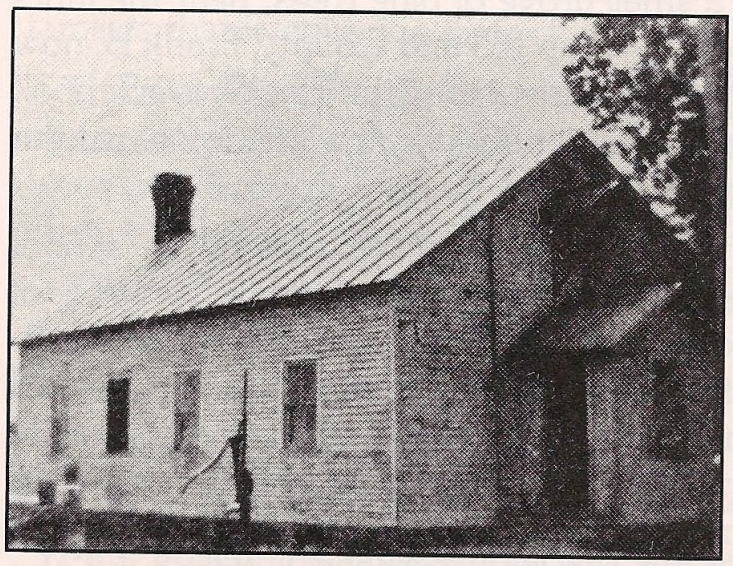
The residents of the Saxonburg district had always made use of the school facilities. In addition to the usual basket socials, seasonal programs and card parties, the school served as a meeting place for 4-H clubs, farm organizations and other local society groups. The Saxonburg Dramatic Club, in existence since the early 1900's, sponsored yearly plays which gave that community quite a reputation.

Saxonburg seemed to be known as a community of progressive and prosperous farmers. Many of the pioneer families live on through their descendants in this area yet today.

After the closing of the school the property changed hands and underwent some remodeling, transforming it into a place of residence. Today it is the home of Mr. and Mrs. Norbert Zelewski and their family.

LASALLE SCHOOL

by Brenda Wellner and John Koch



LaSalle School

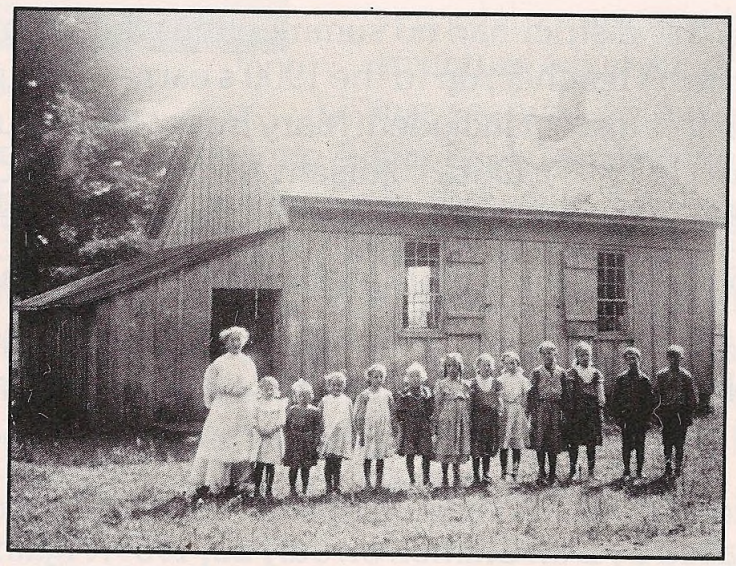
The LaSalle School was known as the French Settlement school. Some of the earliest names on the school roster were Niquette, Dionne, Cayo, Baugniet, Peltier and Belrose.

LaSalle School was built in 1869. LaSalle was a frame building 24 by 28 feet. It cost $168 to build. There was only one room in the school. As soon as you came in the door from the outside you were in the classroom. Because the school had no basement the bathroom was an outhouse. They had wooden benches with double seats and desks, and wooden blackboards.

In 1903 they added an eight foot addition. This new part of the school cost $450. The addition was built for coats and lunch pails as an entrance.

LaSalle School had one teacher for all grades. It was one of the first schools to have a nine month term. The teacher received $150 for a school year of nine months. The most students to go there in one term were eighty.

Chris Ruelle and his family live there now.

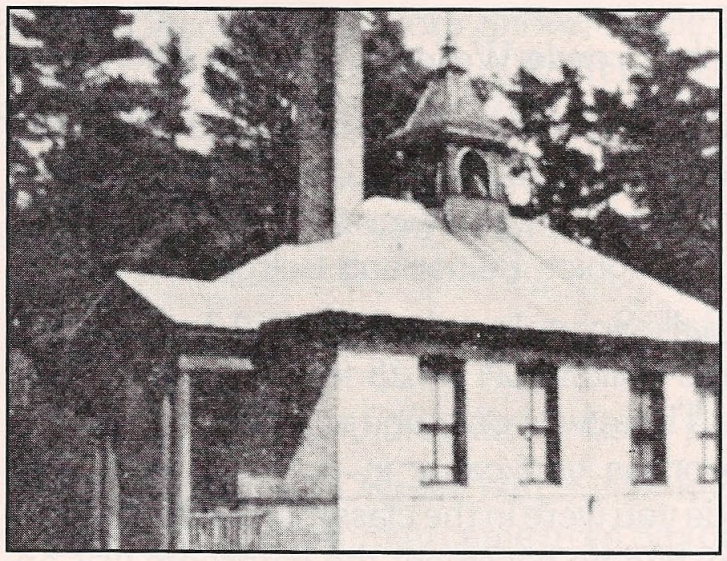


First Pine Grove School

1907 — Left to Right, Miss Ella Witte, teacher, Madeline Breider, Mayme Redeker, Lucille Eslinger, Julia Eslinger, Serena Hoffmann, Amanda Rehrauer, Julia Palzer, Linda Arneman, Josephine Eslinger, Fanny Palzer, Rudolph Rehrauer and Edward Redeker

PINE GROVE SCHOOL

by Michaelene Flanagan, Corrie Hassemer, Jason Remiker and Adam Stueck



Second Pine Grove School

In a small grove of pine trees, near the junction of Highway 163 and County Trunk B, now Steiner's Corners, stood the Pine Grove School. To many residents it became later known as the Steiner's Corner School.

There are no official records of the school prior to 1904 in the hands of the present school officers. However, the facts given in the history are those obtained from county records and from personal comments of old timers in the district. It has been stated that the first log schoolhouse was built in about 1860 and remained standing until 1908. In later years the logs were covered with boards.

The second, a brick veneered schoolhouse was erected in 1908 at a cost of $1,694. The building consisted of a classroom, a large cloakroom and a library. A full-sized basement was also included. During the 1940's electric lights were installed. The school was considered to be quite modern in every respect with the exception of the outdoor toilets that were still used.

The average enrollment during the last thirty years of operation averaged between ten and twenty students. It had been thought that enrollment had been affected by the rise of the parochial school system and many other factors common to a rural area.

As one looks back on the Mishicot assessment roll of 1858 the following settlers lived or owned land in this district at that time: Lorenz Schulter, Mathias Scheuer, Mathias Hoffman, Nicolaus Scheuer, Henry Mueller, John Breider, Albert Wittenberg and Casimer Young. Some of the other families that settled in this area at a later time were the Thielbars, Redekers, Benzingers and Williams.

Most records show that this district had no summer and winter terms. Generally the school had a six month school term. A teacher, up to the 1900's earned about $28 per month. Some of the teachers who taught in this district included: Mary Ross (1872); Julia E. Ricker (1873); Mary Walsh (1874); Sarah Henry (1875-79); Dora Clausen (1896); Mary Redeker (1897-98); and Mary Redeker again in (1905-06). This district seemed to prefer women teachers.

Emphasis was placed on the three R's. During the 1900's school fairs, contests, and spelling matches were popular.

The Pine Grove School District was located in a pure farming community. Many of the farms remained in the hands of descendents of the original owners.

On June 11, 1956 a meeting was held and Joint District No. 5 was dissolved. The school and adjoining land was purchased by Dan Shimek on July 22, 1959. Again in 1964 this property was sold to Jule Laduron, who did an extensive amount of remodeling, transforming this school into residential property. Lyle Sager purchased this property from J. Laduron in 1969 and in a few years sold it to Henry Gray.

Today, what was formerly a school in the Mishicot District is now the residence of Henry Gray and his family.

TISCH MILLS SCHOOL

The Tisch Mills School was also known as the Stangel School because of the many Stangel families that lived in the district.

The first schoolhouse was a log building with a lean-to and was built in 1857. This school was replaced by a frame structure in 1868 for the sum of $600. Since the school had no basement the stove was within the large classroom. The usual outdoor facilities completed the arrangements. Electric lights were installed in 1945.

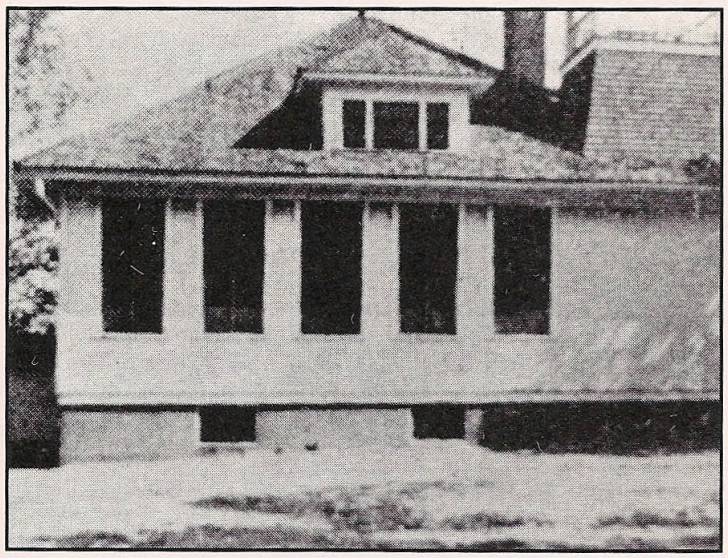
The highest student attendance was eighty-seven pupils in 1870. Many of the children spoke Bohemian or German when they entered school. During the years of 1906-1909, twenty-three Stangels attended out of a total enrollment of forty students.

The first teacher of the school was Sam Roullier. Some of the other early teachers were F.W. Stangel, F.J. Stangel, Fred Hammond, Joseph F. Wojta and John Murdock.

Mrs. Josephine Guetschow was the last teacher in the school before the students were moved to the Central Grade School in the village in the early 1960's.

PLEASANT VIEW SCHOOL

by Heidi Musial and Judy Kintgen



Pleasant View School

Pleasant View School was located on Saxonburg Road and Skubal's Corner, about five miles north of Mishicot.

Pleasant View School was named after the beautiful view of rolling hills and wooded tracts which can be seen from the school site.

The school has a history in itself. Shortly after 1865 the first log schoolhouse was built. It served the community until 1871, when a frame structure which cost $412 was built. The building seemed to be about 24 feet wide and 30 feet long with four windows on the long sides. Each window had twelve panes. It had an original plank floor, which was later removed and replaced with a regular floor. The interior of the building had a large cloakroom across the entrance and one large classroom. The classroom had a teacher's desk with a high stool behind it. The desks and seats were home-made, long enough to seat six to eight sturdy youngsters. A big wood stove in the middle of the room was the heating plant, while the wood was piled conveniently in the rear of the room. Standing on the bench near the piled wood was a water pail with the drinking dipper hanging on a nail near by. Maps, a globe, a large dictionary and "black" boards completed the equipment. Newer desks were purchased in 1900.

In 1916 voters decided that a new and more modern building was in order. Building operations for the new school started and were completed in 1917. Matt Zima was the contractor, and the building cost $4,000. The modern building had a full basement housing indoor toilets and rooms for the heating and ventilating system, for fuel, and for play. The first floor had a large entry and a cloakroom, built in library, and a large classroom.

Electric lights were installed in the early 1940's. The school had a large bell tower which could be heard in all parts of the district. Single chair-type desks replaced the old double desks. This school was one of the most modern in Mishicot. For the summer and winter terms in 1870 there were eighty-seven pupils. After the two-term school year was given up, and the yearly attendance averaged between fifty and seventy pupils. In the early 1900's thirty-five to fifty children attended.

Edward Kracht was the first boy from the district to receive a common diploma. He became the principal of Eagle River High School.

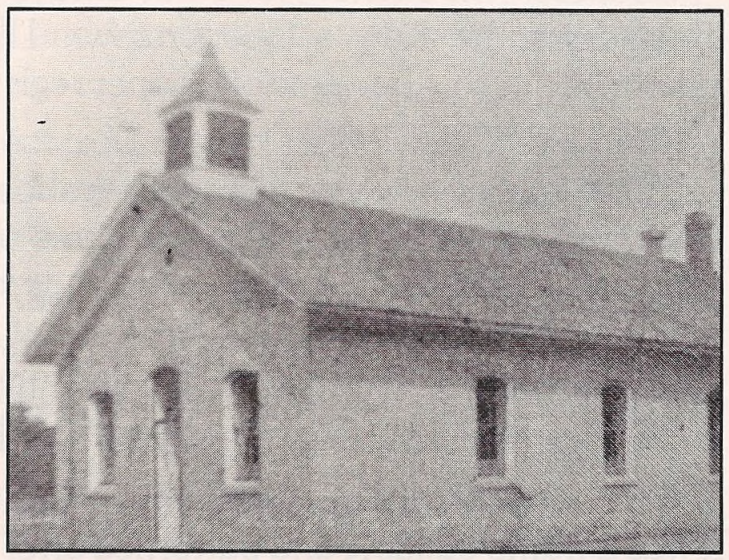
Summer and winter terms of the school were held up to 1875. Teachers recorded in the superintendent's book were: 1872 Kate E. Robinson; 1873 Ernest Pries; 1874 Mary Ross; 1874 Samuel Stitt; 1880 William Ross; 1894-95 Casper Ploeckelman; 1896 William Tomek; 1897 Lloyd Brown; 1898 Emma Eggert; 1904 Joshua Murdock and 1905 Edward Gerl. It is reported that P.M. Simmes taught in this school in 1884. Two others that taught here were Louis Levenhagen and Katie Sechrist.

From this school came some famous people like Isaac Craite, the teacher in 1878-79 who became a well known jurist in Manitowoc. He also served as a traveling judge in Mishicot. Joshua Murdock became a doctor and had a practice in Columbus, Wisconsin.

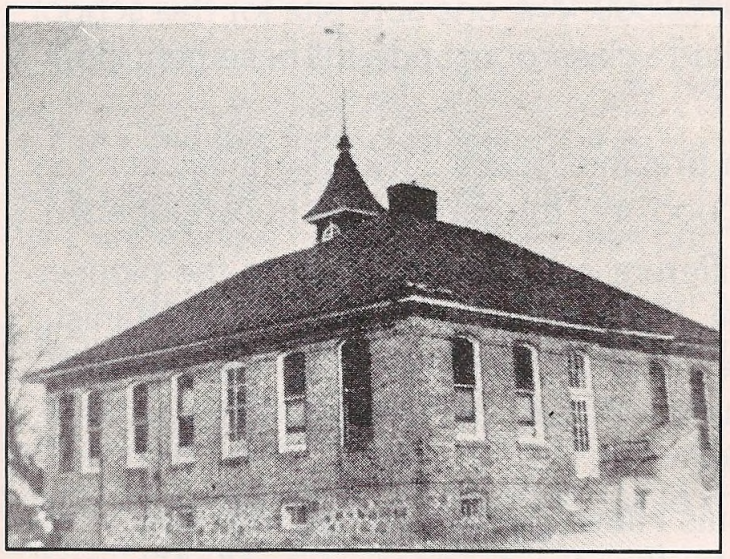
Today, Pleasant View School is being used as a family home.

OUTLYING SCHOOLS WHICH BECAME PART OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF MISHICOT

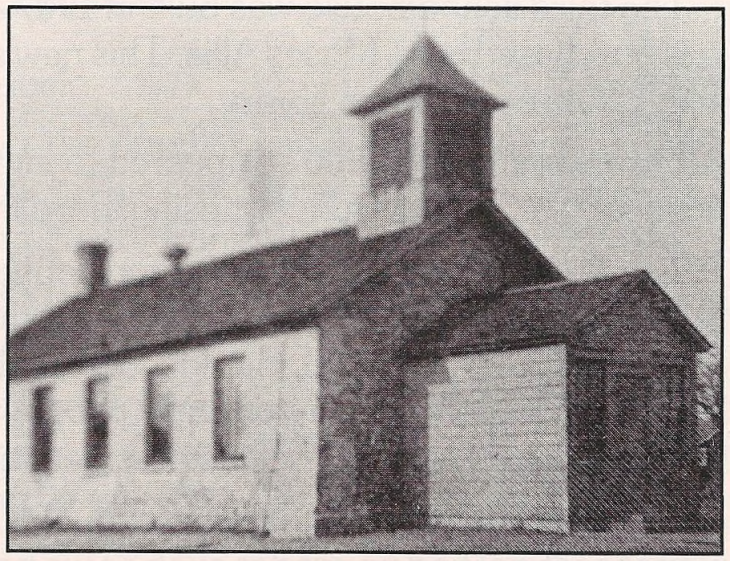
Jambo Creek School



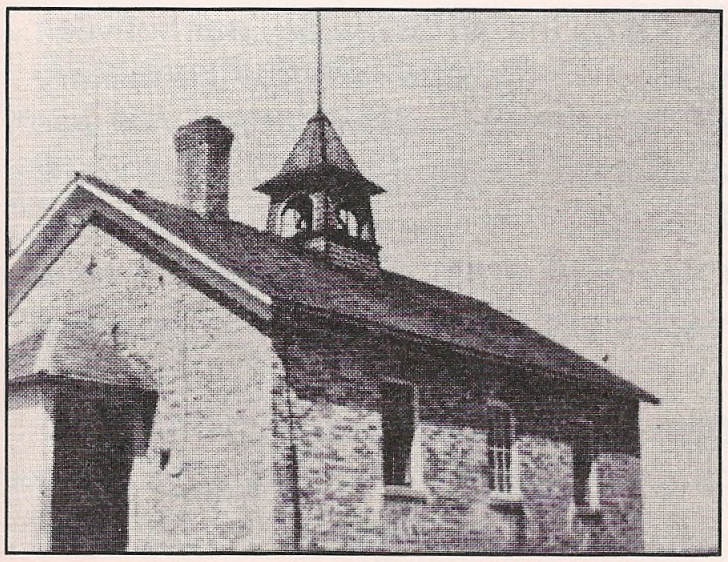
Francis Creek School



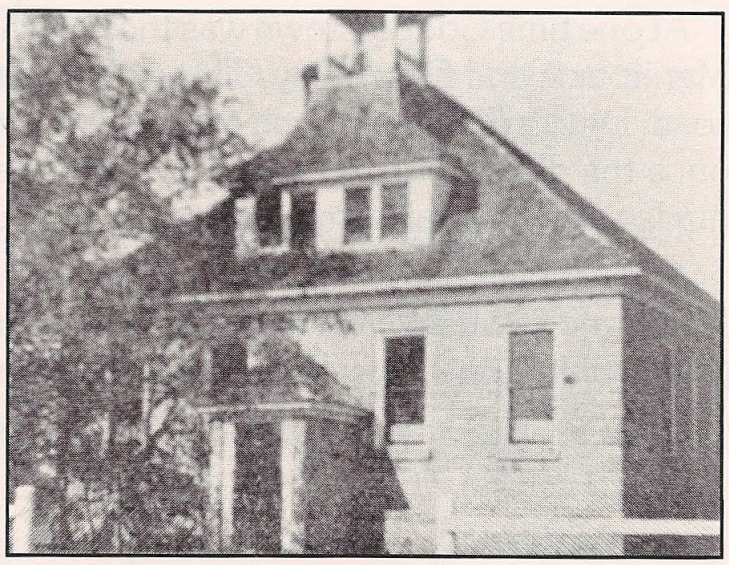
Twin Elder School



Rangeline School



Oakland School



Riverview School

COOPERSTOWN NO. 1 SCHOOL

by Karl Fictum, Jonathon Haese, Michael Stanelle and Paul Zeman

Cooperstown district No. 1 was always known as the Cooperstown School because it was located near the village of Cooperstown. The school was located a quarter mile west of Cookle's corner. A man by the name of Cooper registered the land in this area so the township and village were named in his honor.

The school district was organized in about 1850. The meeting held to organize and establish a site for the school, was held in the home of Clifford King.

The first log school was built in 1857-58. The site selected was considered to be the center of the original district. The land on which the school was built then belonged to John Remark, later known as Robinson's corner. The log building had pine flooring and cost about $75.00. The crude benches were large enough to seat five students.

A second schoolhouse was built in 1878 at the cost of $620.00 and was located on the first site. It was a frame building and patterned after school structures of that early period. Remodeling was done to this structure in 1880. In about 1890 a well was dug and a new pump was purchased. Beautification of the schoolyard was also done that same year.

The third schoolhouse was built in 1907 at a cost of $2,500. The one acre site for this school was purchased from Moses Allie. This new structure had a classroom and a full basement along with cloakrooms and a library.

Enrollment in the 1900's appeared to increase over previous years. This may have been the result of the Catholic school closing. Enrollment was good until the parochial school re-opened.

The first settlers in this area represented many different nationalities. Among the pioneer residents the following families were prominent: Allie, Drews, Bartelme, King, Just, Wanish, Richdorf, Elmer, Goessel, Cookle, Schlegelmilich, Steinbrecker, Nachtwey, Bradley, Cenefelt, Pilger and Zeddies. Many of these people were pioneer farmers but others were merchants, blacksmiths, tinsmiths and businessmen in the village.

The first teacher for Cooperstown No. 1 was Louis Hintz. Many seem to recall that this pioneer school had no grades such as we have today, for then the divisions were called "forms" — there being a primary, an intermediate and an upper form. Many times spelling bees, basket socials and seasonal programs were attended by the adults of the district.

At one time Cooperstown was the halfway stopping place on the old Green Bay trail between Manitowoc and Green Bay. This trail was at first an Indian trail, but later on became a military road. Devil's River, a branch of the West Twin River, skirts the southern boundary of what was once the district. Rock Falls was a scenic spot, as was Maribel Caves. Today this area is still made up of several farms, and retains its rural atmosphere.

After having been closed for a number of years, Cooperstown No. 1, owned then by the Denmark Township, was sold at an auction to Mike Heiser in the 1950's. Mike then sold this property to Louis Kubichek in 1960.

Today the property is owned by Louis Kubichek and is used as a summer home.

LARRABEE SCHOOL

by Amy Rezek, Bobbi Jo Reiser, Kelli Culligan and Rebecca Thorning

The first school was in the town of Gibson and was somewhere east of Larrabee. It was a log building with seats, desks, and blackboard. Mr. Peck and Mr. Birdsall started the school and owned it too.

The second school was built in 1885 across the street from the old school. It cost $551.98 to build the school. The school was 24 by 30 feet long and had four windows, one door, a storage room and cloakroom. They had double desks, a solid wood floor, and a box stove. The first teacher was Ambrose Pellett. Some of the other early teachers were Lucille Wood, Joseph Shambeau and Belle Baugniet. Later teachers included Frank Suchomel, Arnold Chada, Marion Novachek, Evangeline Weber, and others, with Eleanor Peterik being the last teacher that taught here. The school was closed a few years after consolidation with the Mishicot School District.

The third school was a modern brick building. It was built in 1921. The toilets were in the basement. On the main floor was a library corner, teacher's own study room, piano, electric lights, and a blackboard.

OAKLAND SCHOOL

by Kerry Kaderabek

The Oakland School received its name in 1918 after the popular use of the Oakland car by many residents in the old Two Rivers No. 7 school district. This school was commonly known as the Funk school because the site was purchased from Henry Funk Sr.

The brick building was built in 1879, for a cost of $300.00. Electric lights were installed in the building in 1946, but no indoor plumbing was ever installed.

In 1941, the decision was made to close the school due to the drop in enrollment, but was reopened in 1946. The school was permanently closed in the late 1950's due to consolidation. During the 1960's the school was sold to the Funk family who now use it as a granary.

TWIN ELDER SCHOOL

by Sandy Rahmlow

Twin Elder School was so named because of the two elder trees that grew in front of it. Before this it was known as the South School because it was the school in the southern half of the township.

On May 23, 1856, the first school known as Two Rivers No. 6 was opened in a private house. It was a frame structure on the shore of Lake Michigan. The site has since been washed away by the lake. The next school built in 1860 was made of logs at a cost of about $150.00. The first teacher taught for three month terms at $10.00 a month. She boarded at homes in the district.

Until 1873 there were two three month terms. The rule was to have female teachers in the summer term and male teachers in the winter term.

E. A. Benedict was given the school and moved it after 17 years of use. In 1874, a new school was built at a cost of $400.00 on the same site. This school was used until 1891 when a decision

was made to move it to a site closer to the center of the district. Due to the cost of moving, the school was sold to John Koch, and later used as a granary.

A third school was built in 1892 and used until 1905 when the one room building became inadequate. It was then sold to a private party with the lumber being used to build a house.

A multi room brick building was constructed in 1906. It was considered to be "the most modern building" of its time. It was in this building that classes were taught up to tenth grade for a time and the school was known as the Twin Elder State Graded School. Up until this time it was used and later the school district was consolidated into the Mishicot School District.

During the 1960's the Mishicot School District sold the property and it was later remodeled into a house.

RANGELINE SCHOOL

by Christina Warner

The Rangeline district was officially named in 1918 because it was located on both sides of the range line between Two Rivers township 24 and 25 east. It was often referred to as the Mrskosh School because it was located across from the Mrskosh home and tavern.

The first school meeting was held at the home of Fredrick Saubert in 1862. It was agreed to purchase one acre of land alongside Molarsh Creek for $2.00 on which to construct a school. The building was to be constructed of "land wood" logs. The building was completed in 1863, but was destroyed by fire in 1878.

In 1878, a brick school was erected with an addition being added in 1898. Electric lights were installed in the late 1930's. The building lacked indoor lavatories, proper window lighting and a basement with a furnace room.

A limited school yard at first resulted in many windows being broken during baseball season. Such breakages were paid for by those who broke the windows. The district decided to buy additional land to enlarge the school yard.

Because district lines changed over the years, most residents in the area attended the Two Rivers school district, with a few families coming to the Mishicot district. The Rangeline School property was sold in the 1960's and the school building was remodeled into a house.

HOLMES SCHOOL

by Anne Angoli and Jenny Krause

In 1858 a one room log building was built for this district of Gibson. It was placed on a plot of land one acre in size, purchased from Feidel Reich for the sum of $5.00.

This school was heated by a box stove. Sometimes the stove got so hot that the desks next to it started to blister and the farthest desks had frost on them. Desks were built for two people to sit at. In 1872 the walls were painted white for good looks. In 1910 there was an extra entrance and a bell added. In late 1913 a well or pump was drilled for water. In 1919 there was a meeting for a new school to be built. They auctioned off the desks for 25¢ or 30¢. The school was sold to the farmer down the road for $40.00. A new school was built for $5,500.00. It was a lot bigger. It had a library, a cloak room, and a playroom. The bell was brought from the old school. In 1920 a flagpole was put up for the school.

In 1918 the school got its name from Oliver W. Holmes, a famous poet. The Gibson people decided on this name because the children loved reading Holmes' poems. Some of the most common names found on some earliest attendance registers were Roullier, Borcherdt, Hansen, Reich, Honzik, Rebitz, Bodwin and Westcott.

ZANDER SCHOOL

by Mike Wordell

Zander was in Gibson district number 3. In 1858 the first school in Zander was built of wood. After using it for a while, it was sold for $10.50. The second school was built of wood in 1870. There was no coat room. In the back of the room pupils hung their coats on hooks. In 1885 an addition was built on, because more room was needed. The seats and desks were wooden. Two people sat in one desk. The water bucket was used to carry water into the school (for washing hands) and for drinking water. This school was sold for $90.00.

The third school was built in 1916. It was 36 feet by 36 feet. It was a modern up-to-date school. It had a large entry. By the large entry was the stairs to the basement. The basement had a play room and big furnace which burned stoker coal. The school had a large cloak room and a little storage room next to it. A very small library was located in the Northeast corner of the building.

All older pupils had to help clean up the school and do daily chores. Someone had to fetch water for the school. The well was pumped by a hand pump. For the convenience of boys and girls two outbuildings were built in the back of the school yard.

The earliest families attending Zander School were of Norwegian and German decent. Names such as Zander, Hansen, Thompson, Kasten, Foreman, Lukes and Rehbein were familiar.

Many Bohemian families also settled in this area.

JAMBO CREEK

by Mandy Czekala

The school got its name because it was located in the area where Jacques Vieu or Zhambo as the Indians called him set up one of the first trading posts in Manitowoc County along the small creek. The old Green Bay Trail passed the old trading post.

The first log schoolhouse was built about 1847. It was also used as a church by the residents. Later this building was sold for $19.00 and was used as a kitchen by the John Ploeckelmann family.

The second and last school was built in 1873 for the cost of $378.00. Homemade desks and seats were built and used until 1883 when new patented double desks were ordered by the voters. At the time of the building of the second school, a privy 9 x 5 feet, double-boarded, partitioned through the middle and having two doors, was voted for at the cost of $12.00. A woodshed was also erected for $11.50 which included lumber and labor.

The school housed all eight grades, enrollment being between 74 to 20 children for a school term.

The clerk's record book shows this area was settled by Norwegians, Germans and French. Common names found in some of the old records are Brouchoud, Stueck, Olson, Eckhardt and Vertz. Mrs. Delores Kochrosky was the last teacher of the school when it was closed and the children were bused to the Mishicot Grade School in the 1960's.

MAPLE VIEW SCHOOL

by Vicki Dvorak

The first Maple View School was built in 1859. It had a wooden structure. In 1879 the school was destroyed by a fire that started in a nearby woods.

A new school was then built on a half acre of land. This land was purchased from Mr. Heiser for a grand total of $10.00. The new building was constructed of brick veneer. Each taxpayer was given the privilege of hauling a load of bricks to the building site for the building of the school. These people received $2.50 per thousand bricks. The final cost of the building was $359.87 and the furniture and equipment cost another $164.05.

Early records show there were two school terms, a winter term from October 15 to March 15, and a summer term from March to June or July. In 1900 one nine month school term was started.

Pay for school teachers has really changed since the 1880's. Back then a woman earned $25.00 per month, while a man earned $30.00 a month.

Classes in 1871 were similar to what we have now. The alphabet, grammar, spelling, arithmetic, reading, geography and writing were taught. Some of the common family names on the early records were Johnson, Christiansen, Willert, Thompson and Chapman.

LAKESIDE SCHOOL

by Chrissy Schulz, Lindsay Haag and Amy Kieckbusch

Landowners begin with Henry Taylor who bought the land on which the schools were built. He only paid $1.25 per acre in 1850. In 1853 Felix Walsch bought the land from Taylor. Following these owners, James Hunter rented a half-acres to Gibson #5 for a whole school in 1861. The first school was a simple building. There were no chalkboards for the children to write on and the teachers received only $9.00 a month. The cost was $59.00 to run the school one year. The second school was located on the present site but few records are available about the building. The third school house was 24 feet long. In 1910 a new wooden shed was built. An addition to the front of the school was built and later used as a cloakroom for the students.

Gibson's District No. 5 School was known as Lakeside School. During the first 50 years boys and girls from ages six to twelve attended this school. Many children from the Mott family came to this school, so it was nicknamed the Mott school.

MELNIK SCHOOL

by Samantha Meneau

On October 1858 a tract of land was bought for the sum of $30.00 on which a school was to be built. It was the Czech people who migrated from Melnik in Czechoslovakia who decided this. It was so named in memory of their European village.

The school was built in 1859 by a farmer of the district who furnished labor and building materials for $600.00. The classroom was poorly lighted and heated. Desks were homemade of long benches placed on wooden blocks. Pine boards painted black were the blackboards. A pail and dipper were the drinking fountain with water gotten from a neighbor's well.

In less than 50 years more settlers came, families increased, and in 1900 the school was enlarged. Later, it was one of the first district schools to have electric lights. In the 1940's it had a modern heating furnace, pedestal type desks, piano, radio, steel filing case, bookcases, and drilled well. Common family names were Spevacek, Hlinak, Shimonek, Kazda, Witt, and Dushek.

The Melnik school still stands, not as a school, but as a home. When rural schools were consolidated into the Mishicot District the John Kochrosky's bought the building and remodeled it. It now is owned by the Paul Schmook family.

PALM GROVE SCHOOL

by Trisha Olesewski, Stacy Eis and Jaime Puta

The Palm Grove School was located in the township of Kossuth on Reif Mills Road, about 12 miles from Mishicot. This school was built in 1881 but was not named until 1918. It got its name because it was close to the Palm Grove cheese factory. The school was built of brick veneer for a cost of $885.00. At that time a wood-burning, pot bellied stove heated the one room schoolhouse. There was a small cloakroom in the front and a woodshed in the back of the one classroom. Many years later, a floor furnace and electric lights were added. The school never had indoor toilets or running water.

The Palm Grove School closed its doors as a place of learning in 1963. A neighboring farmer bought the ½ acre of land and the building for $25.00. The school was torn down in 1981, but the old water pump is still there.

Familiar family names of this area are Kirt, Erwin, Kubsch, Hrdina, and Vraney.

ROCKWOOD SCHOOL

by Jennifer Wieting

The first Rockwood School was a cedar log building that served in the district until 1898, when it was sold at public auction so that another new and better school could be built.

Names common to the school during pioneer days were Ewen, Mohr, Bolle, Bleser, Hardrath, Delsman, Schuette, Tills and Alswede.

Some interesting district resolutions were found in the records. In 1871, it was resolved "that the schoolhouse be closed on Sundays and all religious meetings be prohibited being held in the schoolhouse hereafter." The building was used for church purposes up to that time. In 1872, it was resolved that a teacher be employed capable of teaching English and German — two days of German and three days of English weekly. Also found in the files was note written to the teacher by a parent regarding some boys who were looking in through the saloon windows, about a half century ago. The teacher wrote "to be kept for future use" on the note.

The first teacher at the school was Mrs. Mary A. Fearney Madden of Providence, Rhode Island. She taught the three "R's". She also taught the girls knitting and patching. For her salary she received donations of money and food.

In 1897, the voters decided to build a new school which was made of brick. This building was used until 1924 when another new school was constructed of brick. This two-story building became a multi-teacher building known as a State Graded School. It was closed due to consolidation. Some students went to Manitowoc with several families coming to the Mishicot School District.

RIVER VIEW SCHOOL

by Michelle Goertz

The school was built in 1914, near Kingsbridge on County Trunk Q. It was made of cement blocks at the cost of $3,300. Roy Sievert was the first teacher. He earned $48.00 a month. In 1920 school fairs were held each fall. Farmers brought their crops and students displayed their work. The school was named the River View School because of the view of the West Twin River which flows past the school.

Records show the names of Kunz, Zeman, Kouba, Rozum and Kliment common to the area.

THE FRANCIS CREEK RURAL SCHOOL

by Wendy Cherney, Amanda Goertz and Joseph Mumper

The first school in Francis Creek was built in 1852. The building is now 133 years old. It was 18 x 24 feet with four shuttered windows on each long side and one at the entrance. It got its name from the (Francis) Creek which flows past the school into the West Twin. After the first building served its purpose, it was sold for $43.45 on February 27, 1892.

The second school was built in 1891 at a cost of $708 for materials and $747.41 for labor. New desks, blackboards and a bell were purchased for the school. In 1908 a well was drilled on the school yard by William Reif. The playground equipment included a merry-go-round and a slide that were bought in 1927. In 1935 electric lights were installed and the southwest corner of the school was made into a semi-library-kitchen. The school had an outdoor toilet and was heated by a wood stove until 1908, when a modern heating system was put in. This school is now the Francis Creek Sportsman's Club.

The Francis Creek school has always been active in school affairs and county contests.

When county schools were consolidated, some of the family properties became part of the Mishicot School District. Family names common to this area were Hessel, Swade, Kliment, Youra, Rezak, Tesarik and Chloupek.

BROCKVILLE

by Kari Pelisek

"Cinder Dump" was the name first given to a little boxcar station located north of Francis Creek. Later it was named Brockville and so the Brockville School.

People in the area wanted a new school for their children because none of the other schools around were within walking distance.

The school was built in 1903 and is still used as the Z.C.B.J. Lodge meeting hall. It is a well built brick structure full basement with fuel furnace.

Some former pupils of the Brockville school have been successful, such as being a member of the Federal F.B.I., professor of biochemistry, lieutenant army nurse, and teachers. Some familiar family names were Swetlik, Suchomel, Rebechek, Tepley and Shestak.

MEADOW BROOK SCHOOL

by Lisa Wiegert

Kossuth School District No. 5 was given the name of Meadow Brook District because of the small brook which meanders through the district north of the school location. It was formerly called the Spencer School because the first school was on the Henry Spencer farm. Later it was commonly called the Kappelman school because it was located near the William Kappelman home.

The first public school was erected about 1853 and was the fifth school house built in the township of Kossuth. Some of the earliest family names were Cross, Fulton, Koch, Cootway, Bleser, King and Kappelman.

The second school building was used until 1885 when it was sold to Peter Kornely which was made into a dairy, known as the Kornely Dairy. Later the name was changed to Meadow Brook Cheese Factory.

Will Spencer, in 1903-04, conducted the first spelling contest for schools in this area. The contest was won by a pupil from the Kossuth No. 5, William Tills. A few years later, a county contest was held at the Turner Hall in Manitowoc and again William Tills won, becoming the champion speller of Manitowoc County Schools.

In 1946, the building was remodeled, a new furnace installed along with kitchen facilities for the preparation of hot lunches for the children. Mrs. Evelyn Kliment was the teacher during this time and prepared the lunches for children in addition to teaching for a full day. Students and parents assisted with the program making it an outstanding and recognized program by the county and state.

Mrs. Shirley Mecha was the last teacher at the school. It was during her stay at the school that special educational programs were instituted for the children of the migrant workers of the area. She taught here until the school was closed because of consolidation reasons. Some families were absorbed by the Manitowoc School District and others by the Mishicot School District.

The building was acquired by William Kappelman Jr., and is used for storage.

MISHICOT MISCELLANY

DID YOU KNOW THAT...

Around 1910 a circus came to Mishicot and set up on the corner now encompassed by the Mishicot Lumber Company and Mrs. Meineke's garden. The elephants were watered at "Hattie's pump." (Mrs. Herbert Meineke's homestead).

The building presently owned by Jindra Plumbing and Heating was originally built by John Terens. A hardware store was located on the first floor. The second floor housed a museum and in the back was a zoo with wild birds and animals.

The school bell which was hung in the tower of the Grade School and High School downtown was stolen from a steam locomotive. The bell disappeared three times, but now hangs in a "built-in" tower in the Outdoor Education building.

Around 1890 the Republican Presidential candidates spoke at Mishicot. The men and boys met the candidates at the bridge with lighted pine knot torches, and led the parade through town down Main Street to the speaker's site. The women, girls and young boys followed. One young boy, Edward Puta, was quite put out that he had to walk with the women and girls, especially after the family walked to Mishicot from the homestead which was four miles from the village. (Ed was only four).

The cannon from the Two Rivers City Park was toted to Mishicot by a group of "get-even" bowlers. They aimed it at the bank. One of the local business owners became so frightened that he evacuated his building by crawling through his backyard on his stomach for fear the bank would be blown to bits.

Lucy Saves the Peaches...The gypsies made their annual trek through town. They happened to stop at Joe Dufek's house. Everyone was gone except for little Lucy. The family had a bushel of peaches behind a curtain and when little Lucy saw the gypsy woman in the hallway she began to scream and that's how Lucy saved the peaches.

At one time there were a group of Arabs in Mishicot and they couldn't find a place to stay. Good-hearted Joe Dufek used some old burlap bags and made sleeping quarters for these out-of-town guests. In the morning they had breakfast with the family, oatmeal of course, and were on their way again.

Gypsies visit Mishicot

Francis Creek was the railroad center that served the area residents. When St. Peter's Lutheran Church was being built in 1925, the red granite stones were shipped to Francis Creek from Red Granite, Wisconsin. The men of the congregation brought horsedrawn wagons to the depot to pick up the stones and cart them to the building site in Mishicot.

Camp Tapawingo, site of the present 4-H Camp, a little west and north of the Village of Mishicot sports an interesting Indian Legend. If you sit very quietly at the edge of the East Twin River in early dawn, you can hear the soft, gentle whisper of a friendly Indian, Billy Buttons. Billy was a loving, caring fellow who helped a white pioneer family survive a severe winter. He brought meat and food for the family. Billy took a special liking to the white lady, but knew that he could not interfere. Broken hearted he left the area never to be seen again, but his caring spirit still slithers among the shrubs along the East Twin River.

Mishicot had several lawyers in the early years. One of them was Isaac Craite. Another was Adolph Chloupek, who combined his law practice with farming, and in 1897 built the large house which now has the telephone-company building located on one front corner of its lot. Two of Attorney Chloupek, daughters became teachers, and one of them, Lillian Chloupek, in the 1920's became the first woman to serve as Superintendent of Schools for Manitowoc County.

"Cattle fairs" on an established monthly date, when farmers parked along one street with livestock (mainly baby pigs) to sell, were held for many years in this area, continuing at least until the 1950's. Mishicot's traditional date was the 4th Monday of the month, and other villages such as Tisch Mills, Kellnersville, and Denmark similarly had their own monthly fair dates.

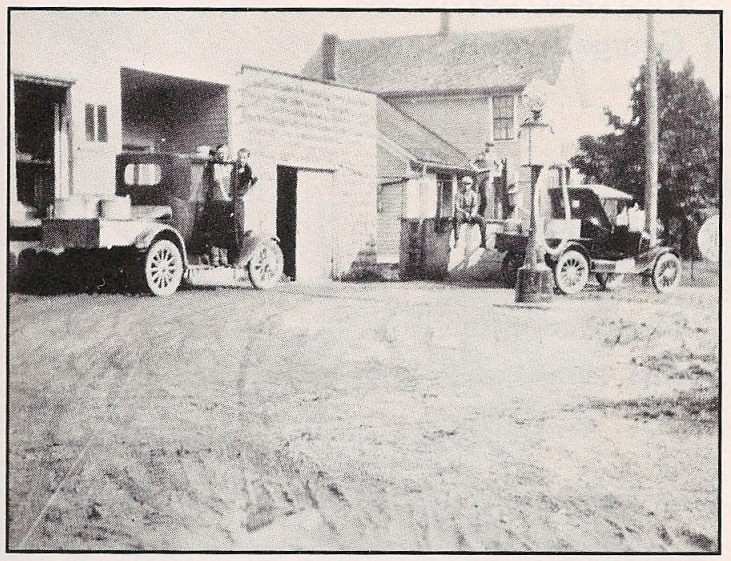
PRINCL TRUCKING

Arnold Princl started in the trucking business with one milk truck on August 1, 1939. He expanded to a total of seven milk trucks.

From 1944 to 1957 Arnold hauled whey and whey products for Foremost dairy.

Princl Transfer Lines was incorporated in 1954. This company was in the business of hauling petroleum and asphalt. Princl Transfer Lines started with two semi-tractors and trailers and increased to over 100 units with 119 drivers. During the peak years Princl Transfer Lines had terminals in Milwaukee, Sheboygan, Wausau, Rhinelander, Superior and Green Bay.

In November 1982 Arnold and Alice Princl Incorporated Old Reliable Transport. During the asphalt season, Old Reliable Transport leases about eighteen owner-operators. The trailers are owned by the Princls. The home terminal is located at 829 Oak Street in Mishicot.



CHEESE MAKING

Small cheese factories were prevalent in the Mishicot rural area during the early part of the century. The farmers transported their milk to the factory each morning. Milk was weighed and put into large vats where it was used to make cheese. Some of the milk was put through a machine to separate the butter fat from the milk. The butter fat was made into butter. Butter and milk products were consumed in the local area or sent to other communities.

The village of Mishicot had several cheese factories. One of these was owned and operated by the Wilbur Kempen family. Milk was transported to this factory by horse and sled during the winter time. Some farmers brought their milk in on small trucks. The Kempens also had their own truck which was used to pick up milk from the farms.

The Princl family also owned and operated a cheese factory which was enlarged to a modern dairy plant. This was the most recent plant in the village and last one to close down its operation.

Special acknowledgement and appreciation is being extended to the staff and students of the O. H. Schultz Elementary School for their special efforts in the completion of this heritage book. Along with the school populace special note is given to the use of the resources listed below:

Books

Falge's	*History of Manitowoc County Wisconsin,* 1911 Volume I and Volume II
Holst, A.	Booklet, *Souvenir of Mishicot,* Published at the turn of the century
Rappel, Jos. J.	*A Centennial History of Manitowoc County School Districts and Public School System,* 1948

Private Collections

Chris Baugniet
Bernard Brouchoud
James Bydalek
Miss Josephine Dufek
Mrs. Hazel Eisenmann
Mrs. Janet Hauck
Ervin Kliment
Raymond Kronforst
Mrs. Bette LaRose
Miss Hazel Levenhagen
Arnold Princl
Arthur Redeker
Mrs. Mary Scheuer
Robert Scheuer
Mrs. Corinne Schultz
Richard Specht
Mrs. Donna Spevacek
Mrs. Jean Staudinger
Mrs. Gladys Stefl
Stanley Stelzer
Mrs. Ethel VanderLogt
Mrs. Audrey Wojta

Citizen Interviews

Father Richard Allen
Father Earl Brouchoud
Miss Lucy Dufek
Mrs. Dora Kadow
Grover Kadow
Pastor Herbert Kesting
Raymond Kronforst
Mrs. Hattie Meineke
Mrs. Carmela Mueller
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Mrs. Betty Kudick
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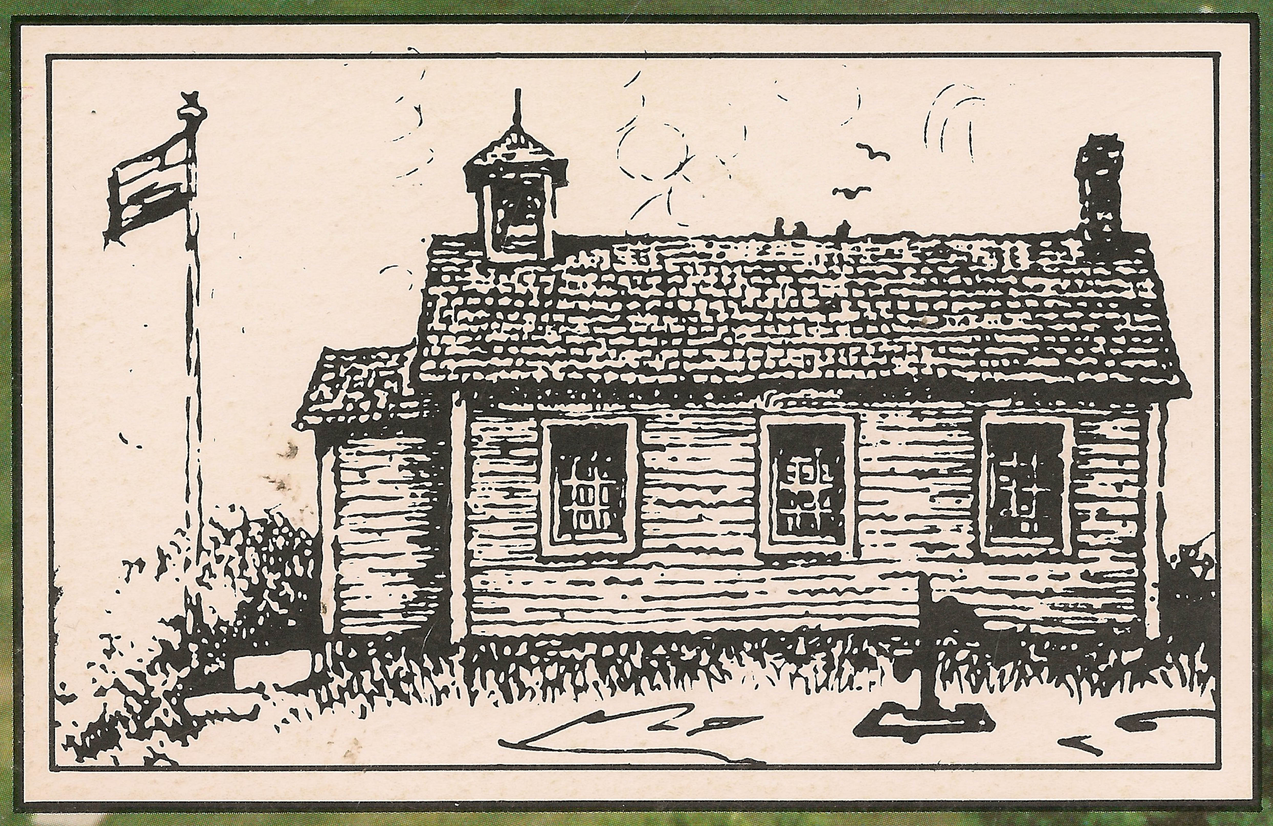
Mrs. Ethel VanderLogt

Naming the Book

Mishicot's Meaningful Memories
Jule Peters — fifth grade student

GARAGE

Mishicot
Looking West

In the days of the touring cars.
A GLIMPSE OF MISHICOT